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4 May Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0405132988 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Two Amal Movement members were killed in "fierce fighting" with IDF and South Lebanese Army (SLA) forces in the area around Maydun in western Al-Biqa', Beirut radio reported. A UNIFIL spokesman cited by Voice of Lebanon radio reported an exchange of fire near Maydun between Israeli military aircraft and a number of "gunmen," who fled the area. Reinforced by paratroopers, the Israeli forces gained control of Maydun 4 May, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, adding that they also bombarded the Syrian Special Forces base at Mashgarah, 5 km away.

Voice of Lebanon had reported the day before that Syrian troops in western Al-Biqa' had been put on a maximum state of alert in response to the IDF operation in southeast Lebanon. No reports of Syrian clashes with IDF forces have been monitored. Meanwhile, according to Voice of Lebanon, Israeli military aircraft continued to overfly Sidon and the surrounding area and Israeli helicopters continued searches over the Al-Biqa' area.

Addressing the Knesset on the IDF operation in southeast Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, without specifying the location, confirmed fighting with one of the "terrorist organizations," IDF radio reported. Rabin also said that it was hoped that the operation would be ended and the Israeli troops brought back "within 48 hours," the radio added. IDF radio had earlier reported that the Arab Democratic Party submitted a motion of no-confidence in the Cabinet over the operation. According to Beirut radio, the UNIFIL Command also lodged a protest over the operation and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Israel

The transportation minister ordered three consignments of medical equipment and foodstuffs to be returned to their countries of origin, MA'ARIV reported, because the containers from Iraq, Egypt, and the USSR were addressed to "PLO—Gaza."

In the occupied terrorities, IDF forces killed two youths in Bani Na'im and a third in the Balatah refugee camp during "violent" riots, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the camp was put under curfew. Meanwhile, according to IDF radio, the curfew previously imposed on refugee camps in Gaza was lifted. Two people were wounded when IDF forces dispersed riots in Al-Birah and Qabatiyah, and a man in Ramallah was injured in an attack on an IDF soldier, according to YEDI'OT AHARONOT. The paper also reported that 30 policemen in Gaza returned to work, bringing the total number of policemen who have returned to work to 70. According to IDF radio, 90 policemen and officers returned to work in Gaza.

Saudi-Iranian Relations

A Saudi official cited by SPA called "wholly untrue and unfounded" a Tehran radio report that Saudi police and security forces "barbarically attacked" the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah, removed the employees from the building in an "inhuman manner," and took them to an undisclosed location. Iranian Foreign Ministry officials cited by Tehran radio claimed that the Consulate officials were forcibly removed prior to the deadline set when Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran. According to the Saudi official, nobody was harmed, and the staff of the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah and the Iranian Embassy in Riyadh left in a "trouble-free security atmosphere," SPA reported.

PLO

Mahmud 'Abbas was appointed by the PLO Executive Committee to assume former PLO official Khalil al-Wazir's position on the Jordanian-Palestinian "Committee for Bolstering Steadfastness," AL-RA'Y reported.

5 May Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0505125588 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

French Hostages' Release—The release of Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann was announced by Paris radio, which noted that the three French hostages were handed over to Syrian intelligence in Beirut 4 May by a man wearing Muslim clerical clothing. The three Frenchmen were then transferred to French emissary Jean-Charles Marchiani and flown to France, AFP reported. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' claimed that their release was the result of his own country's efforts, as well as those of "other sides," according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Nevertheless, Syrian businessman 'Umran Adham was expelled from France the same day, Paris radio reported, noting the French interior minister's view that Adham was "hampering" French policy and possibly "seriously jeopardizing" the lives of the French hostages. The minister stressed that France has not used Adham as a mediator in the hostage crisis since the Chirac government was formed in March 1986. As for the terms of their release, an Islamic source in Beirut maintained that France paid a ransom of $26 million and agreed to supply Iran with arms through a third party, according to a news agency report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio.

IDF Operation in South—IDF units have returned to base after killing over 40 Hizballah "terrorists" in Maydun, IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron stated in an interview with Jerusalem television. He confirmed that IDF losses were 3 killed and 17 wounded, noting that two of the dead were officers. The IDF stormed Maydun because the village was used by terrorists as a base for launching attacks on the IDF and the South Lebanese Army (SLA), he said, adding that the IDF took care to avoid a clash with Syrian forces stationed further north at Mashgarah.

Major General Yosi Peled, head of the IDF Northern Command, told IDF radio that the Israelis achieved their objective of destroying the terrorist infrastructure in Maydun, though he acknowledged that the fighting was "tough" and involved short-range combat against fortified positions. In an interview with Jerusalem television, Peled also stressed that the paratroopers' operation against Maydun was necessary to preempt a possible Hizballah move to cut off the Christian town of Jazzin from SLA positions further south. Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, told the television that the raid was a "warning signal" to other villages, which will see "what remains of Maydun" and will understand that a similar fate will befall them if they continue to harbor elements operating against Israel and the SLA.

Details of the attack were announced earlier by Jerusalem radio, which noted that paratroopers attacked Maydun at dawn 4 May under cover of artillery fire. Hizballah personnel had converted the village into a fortified barracks, but they were not prepared for the attack and did not discover the Israeli forces until the latter reached the outskirts of the village. Hizballah and Israeli forces then engaged in house-to-house fighting. Beirut radio confirmed that violent battles raged in Maydun, noting that Amal Movement and Lebanese Army artillery exchanged fire with the Israeli forces. A Syrian source cited by the Voice of Lebanon warned that Syria would confront any further advance by the Israelis. A high-ranking Syrian official had earlier informed London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that any Israeli attack on areas under Syrian protection would meet with a "violent response."

Among diplomatic reaction to the IDF operation, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source cited by MENA denounced Israel's "aggression" against Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Condemnations of the operation in Lebanon were also issued by Iran and Saudi Arabia, according to IRNA and Riyadh radio reports. A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman likewise condemned Israel's "criminal action," and expressed concern that the IDF incursion was undertaken in close proximity to Syrian territory. Lebanon's UN representative called on the Security Council to implement UN resolutions on the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces, Beirut radio noted.

Palestinian Developments—Over 300 Fatah "dissidents" rejoined the Fatah mainstream in the Sidon area following Fatah's victory over the dissidents in the recent clashes in the Shatila camp, Radio Monte Carlo reported. PLO sources cited by the radio stated that 38 dissidents also rejoined Fatah in Shatila and that the PLO and Syria have agreed to exert maximum efforts to put an end to the internecine fighting.

Beirut Explosion—Four people were killed and three wounded by a bomb explosion in a West Beirut movie theater, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Israel

A curfew was imposed on two Gaza Strip refugee camps after two youths were killed and six wounded by IDF gunfire during a "violent riot," IDF radio reported. The IDF is also investigating the cause of another refugee's death, the radio said, noting that Arab sources attribute it to tear gas fired by soldiers. Five Arabs were injured in other disturbances in Khan Yunus, Silwad, and Nabulus, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran downed two Iraqi planes attacking industrial centers in Shiraz, IRNA reported. An Iraqi military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio confirmed that one plane was downed during "devastating" raids on the Shiraz oil refinery and the "extremely important" petrochemical complex in Shiraz. On the war of the cities, a WIH spokesman categorically denied Iraqi claims that Iran shelled Darband-i Khan, IRNA said. According to a military communique carried by Voice of the Masses, Iran shelled Darband-i Khan 3 and 4 May and shelled Abu al-Khasib 3 May.

In the Gulf, an Iraqi plane was downed by Iranian antiaircraft fire, according to an Iranian military communique cited by Tehran radio. The radio also reported that U.S. warships, in a "provocative and adventurist move," stopped an Iranian Oil Ministry cargo ship and questioned the crew before allowing it to continue on its way to an Iranian oil platform. Meanwhile, emphasizing U.S. military intervention in the Gulf war, the Kuwaiti Hizballah warned that it will soon start its jihad operation against "subservient" Gulf governments supporting Iraq, IRNA reported.

Saudi-Iranian Relations

A Saudi official rebutted an Iranian Information Ministry official's claims that a Saudi "spy" illegally entered Iran with a large sum of money to spread the "Wahhabi creed," SPA reported. The Saudi official said the Iranian claim was "pathetic" and called it another "completely unfounded" and "fabricated lie." The official warned Tehran against continuing such "poisoned deceptive campaigns," cautioning that Saudi Arabia will firmly confront them.

The same day, IRNA reported that the staff from the Iranian Embassy in Riyadh returned to Tehran. The former charge d'affaires told IRNA that Riyadh rejected his request to assign a third country to look after Iran's interests in Saudi Arabia.

Libya

The French ambassador to Libya was summoned to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and asked for an explanation of France's announcement that it will build an airport at the Chadian city of Faya Largeau, JANA reported. The French Cooperation Minister cited by Paris International radio noted that the "permanent air base" at Faya Largeau—to ensure Chad's external security—will have a runway capable of accomodating fighter aircraft. He asserted: "I believe Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will understand very clearly that this is dissuasive." In response, a People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison official stated that Libya strongly condemns "this colonialist logic" and retains the right to defend itself against any threat from the "imperialist" military base near its border, JANA reported.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah began a 3-day visit to India 4 May, meeting with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, according to Kabul radio. A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman cited by Islamabad radio said it is "extremely unfortunate" that Najibullah was invited to visit India when the Soviet forces are about to pull out from Afghanistan.

In Kabul, the Pakistani charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry where he was told that Afghanistan rejected Pakistani claims that Afghan forces attacked Chaman 23 March and Bajaur and Khyber Agencies 2, 15, and 22 April. Meanwhile, according to BAKHTAR, the Afghan armed forces crushed a mujahidin group led by Muhammad Amin in Paktia Province.

PDRY-YAR Talks

Following 3-4 May talks in Sanaa between 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Aden and Sanaa radios reported that an agreement on facilitating the movement of citizens between the PDRY and the YAR and an agreement on a joint oil venture were signed.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Meets in Baghdad

Chaired by 'Arafat

JN031842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1806 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee continued the meetings of its ordinary session for the 3d consecutive day today.

An authorized Palestinian source informed INA that the PLO Executive Committee chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, discussed all issues pertaining to the popular uprising being staged in the occupied territories and ways to bolster and escalate it to make it enter a new militant phase guaranteeing its continuation.

The source added: The Executive Committee also reviewed, with extreme jubilation, the important developments brought about by the great victory scored by the Iraqi Army under the leadership of militant President Saddam Husayn.

The Executive Committee asserted that the victory scored by Iraq is a victory for the entire Arab nation and a great stride on the road to liberating Arab territories, particularly holy Jerusalem, and added that this victory will also help achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

The Palestinian source went on to say that the Executive Committee also discussed the important decisions brought about by the aggressive Zionist military operation in southern Lebanon—the operation which is targeting positions belonging to the Lebanese nationalist and Palestinian forces.

The source said: The meetings also tackled the Palestinian political plan of action on both the Arab and international levels, as well as a number of ordinary and extraordinary organizational and financial issues.

The PLO Executive Committee is expected to conclude its meetings either at a later time tonight or tomorrow.

New Fundraising Plan Adopted

JN041501 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 4 May 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (WAKH)—At the conclusion of its meetings last night, the PLO Executive Committee adopted a new plan of action to secure financial support for the popular uprising in the occupied territories

Authoritative Palestinian sources told a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that Palestinian delegations will soon pay visits to Palestinian communities in the diaspora and the Arab homeland aimed at implementing a plan for family solidarity between the Palestinian families inside and outside the occupied homeland.

The Executive Committee began meetings under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here 2 days ago to discuss means to support the popular uprising in the occupied territories as well as ways to strengthen and escalate it. The Executive Committee also discussed the Arab and Palestinian situation.

The sources said the committee discussed 'Arafat's visit to Damascus and talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The committee was also acquainted with the results of the talks held by Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi with Syrian officials to restore bilateral relations.

After listening to Qaddumi's report, the committee recommended the need for the continuation of dialogue with Syria. However, the Palestinian sources affirmed that the recent contacts in Damascus are still in the initial stages and did not go beyond breaking the ice which characterized relations for 5 years.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the political and security dimensions of the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and its effect on the various aspects of the Palestinian revolution march.

The sources told the correspondent that the committee entrusted Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also know as Abu Mazin, with heading the Palestinian side to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee instead of Abu Jihad.

In its discussions of the dimensions of the popular uprising inside the occupied territories, the Executive Committee dwelt upon the issue of securing financial support for the uprising in light of the urgent need and insufficiency of the Arab support extended to the PLO over the past months.

The sources also said that the committee also discussed the issue of inter-Palestinian clashes which took place inside the Shatila camp over the past few days, the dimensions of these clashes, and their objectives after the Syrian- Palestinian contacts.

The correspondent learned that Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, yesterday telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' from Baghdad to discuss the dimensions of these clashes and how to end them.

The sources said that 38 dissidents have joined Fatah in the Shatila camp.

Executive Committee member Abu Mazin will leave for Amman tomorrow to hold further talks with Jordanian officials.

Reportage on Return of 'Dissidents' to Fatah

38 Return to Ranks

JN041849 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] An informed Palestinian source in Baghdad has stated that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, last night held a telephone conversation with Faruq al-Shar', Syrian minister of foreign affairs, about the Palestinian clashes in the Shatila camp in Beirut.

The source added that Qaddumi and Al-Shar' agreed to exert every possible effort to put a final end to the recent clashes between the Fatah forces and those who broke away from it.

It will be recalled that Faruq Qaddumi participated in the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Baghdad, held under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat and concluded last night.

In another development, a Fatah official said that 38 dissidents had returned to Fatah's ranks during the clashes in which 8 were killed and 42 were wounded. These clashes ended by emphasizing Fatah's great superiority because the pro-Syrian organizations did not help their old dissident allies.

Sidon 'Dissidents' Join

JN042056 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 May 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The PLO has announced that Fatah dissidents under Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] in Sidon, which shelters the largest Palestinian gathering in southern Lebanon, today returned to the ranks of the Fatah Movement led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Mahmud al-Hasan, PLO spokesman in Sidon, announced that the dissidents in the Palestinian camps in Sidon, totaling between 300 and 400 persons in addition to their command, rejoined the Fatah Movement.

The spokesman added that negotiations are underway for 40 dissidents in the Al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre to follow suit.

An AFP correspondent this evening saw dissident fighters leaving their positions in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in military vehicles to join Fatah positions on the hills overlooking the camp in Jabal al-Halib and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah. The AFP correspondent said the dissidents handed their weapons, military vehicles, and arms depots over to the Fatah Movement.

This announcement comes after the battles waged last Saturday between the dissidents and the Fatah Movement in the Shatila camp near Beirut and in which the Fatah Movement led by 'Arafat triumphed.

Further on Sidon Return

NC0505070088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] According to PLO sources, all the Fatah dissidents loyal to Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] in Sidon have rejoined the Yasir 'Arafat-led Fatah. PLO sources say talks are underway which may result in 40 other dissidents in the Al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre taking the same step.

According to news agencies, a number of Palestinian dissident guerrillas in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp left their positions there and joined Fatah on the nearby hills of Jabal al-Halib and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, turning over their weapons, military vehicles, and munitions to Fatah.

Security sources in West Beirut say armed groups of Palestinian dissidents left the Shatila camp with their personal weapons and headed across Hayy Farahat to the neighborhood of the Ariha School in Burj al-Barajinah. Palestinian dissidents are also said to have fortified their positions in the Al-Dukhah area, near the southern entrance to the Sabra camp.

Chad

France To Build Air Base at Faya-Largeau

LD0305193788 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Before going on to the rest of today's news, here is an exclusive: France is definitely going to build a permanent air base at Faya-Largeau in northern Chad. This was confirmed this afternoon to Jean-Karim Fall by Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac who gave the reasons for the decision:

[Begin Aurillac recording] We will ensure Chad's external security. We have just made an important decision; namely, to build a permanent air base at Faya, which will essentially be for civilian and economic purposes, to enable northern Chad to be developed.

But as a permanent air base with a long runway, one can also imagine fighter aircraft and I believe Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will understand very clearly that this is dissuasive. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Egypt

'Official Source' Condemns Israeli Actions

NC0405132788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1309 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Egypt has condemned the repeated Israeli acts of aggression against the territories of Arab countries and denounced the use of armed force in the military aggression against fraternal Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

An official source in the Foreign Ministry said today that these Israeli attacks conflict with the spirit of peace and with Israel's commitments under the UN Charter. He added that successive events have shown that the Israeli policy of escalation only increases tension and complicates the situation.

The source said that the only correct way to achieve a comprehensive peace is to stop all aggressive actions and negotiate within an international framework.

The source underlined Egypt's support for the Lebanese Government's determination to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and territory and the integrity of its national soil.

He added that Egypt believes Israel's repeated aggressions against Palestinian camps in Lebanon are an extension of the repression practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories. In this way, he said, Israel is creating a grave atmosphere that is threatening the peace efforts.

UN Representative to Occupied Territories Sought

NC0305092088 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo, AL-SAFIR—Egypt has officially asked UN Secretary General Javier [Perez] de Cuellar to appoint a UN representative to the occupied Arab territories in order to supervise the UN's economic and social activities there.

In its request, Egypt accused Israel of violating international conventions by its arbitrary measures against the Palestinian inhabitants in the occupied territories. It pointed out that the appointment of such a representative would allow the Israeli Government's measures to be accurately viewed and appraised.

Sources have revealed that President Husni Mubarak had studied the proposal for appointing a UN representative to the occupied territories with King Husayn during his recent visit to Jordan.

In this context, the Egyptian and Jordanian representatives at the United Nations are holding contacts with representatives of the UN Security Council and of the African states in order to obtain a unanimous approval of the Egyptian request.

Dispute With Israel on Tabah Remains Unresolved

Legal Official Interviewed

JN021050 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 88 pp 3, 4

[Interview with Ahmad Mahir, head of the Foreign Ministry Legal Department, by Mahfuz al-Ansar, Muhammad Abu Hadid, Jalal al-Sayyid, Hasan 'Amir, and Badawi Mahmud—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Question] How will the court of arbitration implement its decision on Tabah? And how will it bind the parties to this decision?

[Mahir] In fact, this is an important question and is being posed continuously from both realistic and political viewpoints. The court does not have police to implement its decision in the event one party refuses to implement it. It is reasonable to ask about Israel's commitment when a decision in favor of Egypt is issued because Israel's historic noncommitment to laws is known.

In this case, if Israel refuses to be committed, the issue will be outside the framework of the law, arbitration, and the court. It will be within the framework of already tense Egyptian-Israeli relations. It is possible such a situation will lead to a very grave political crisis with consequences about which it is inappropriate to talk now. Undoubtedly, this issue is a national, fateful one. Israel's refusal to be bound by the court's decision will have the gravest consequences.

Actually, there are many problems with Israel's relations with Egypt. I do not believe Israel will try to add a new crisis—a crisis that hits a national chord. If Israel's history is full of noncommitment, in this case in particular I believe it will not attempt to create a crisis. [passage omitted]

[Question] While waiting for the court's decision, are attempts being made at reconciliation and to solve the issue through the agreement of both parties, especially since Israel realizes how weak its position is in the court?

[Mahir] What I want to say is that when Egypt proceeded with arbitration it did not do so for the sake of arbitration. From the beginning, Egypt's objective has been the implementation of what was agreed upon: Israel's withdrawal from all Egyptian territories and all of Sinai. What happened is that matters were proceeding in the direction of complete withdrawal when Israel suddenly created the Tabah problem for reasons I am not going to discuss now.

In order not to depict the problem as one of ambitions regarding the hotel and the area surrounding it, Israel broadened the issue to include other points. [passage omitted]

A legal adviser from the U.S. State Department arrived in December and visited both Israel and Egypt. He presented a paper which thus far has not been disclosed.

However, we can say that this paper is based on recognition and approval of all the points demanded by Egypt; that is, full Egyptian sovereignty over its territories, including Tabah. From this premise—the premise of sovereignty—the U.S. official says it is possible to think of some facilities for encouraging tourism within the framework of measures followed in Sinai regarding entry and departure and the movement of tourists.

Of course, we approved the first part of the idea without reservation. It acknowledges Egyptian sovereignty and says that any arrangements must be within this sovereignty and must not violate it. This applies to administering the area and the possession of the hotel just like any other part of Egyptian land on which we accept no special arrangements.

[Question] Did the U.S. adviser present this idea to Israel?

[Mahir] Of course, he took this paper to Israel. He could not persuade the Israelis to accept it. They neither rejected nor accepted it. The U.S. legal adviser went to Israel three times in an attempt to persuade them to accept this paper as a basis for discussion. His last visit was this week. He will come to Egypt and discuss with us the results of his meetings in Israel. In its attempts, the United States is still sticking to the main point, which is Egyptian sovereignty over all Egyptian regions and territories.

Within this framework, we are ready to listen, talk, and discuss, especially since the court's procedures have ended and cannot be obstructed, and the court is working and cannot be influenced. If a positive change occurs in the Israeli position, it is welcome.

[Question] However, this U.S. idea, despite its emphasis on sovereignty, seems close to an Israeli one previously proposed by Israel and rejected by Egypt. This idea calls for the separation of the principle of sovereignty, and the principle of security, security arrangements, or arrangements of interest and cooperation.

[Mahir] Indeed this is the Israeli vision. This means that Israel does not adhere to theoretical issues. It says: I give you sovereignty, but I make arrangements, possess this area, and run the hotel. This is the Israeli thinking, but not that of the United States. U.S. thinking on this point in particular at least calls for an effective sovereignty, not only a formal one. That is, Egypt should perform all acts of sovereignty in this area. [passage omitted]

[Question] Is it conceivable, from a legal and practical viewpoint, to have this: A court debating the issue to make a decision and a U.S. envoy trying to solve the problem by another means?

[Mahir] For Egypt the means are the same. This does not affect us because our demand before the court is the same one raised during talks with the U.S. envoy. It will be the same if the Israelis come to talk with us. Our demand does not change.

[Question] Don't you believe that the U.S.-Israeli attempt at reconciliation is designed to prevent the court from issuing its decision? Otherwise, where were they before the court ended its work and began preparations to announce the decision?

[Mahir] This question is important. The Israelis asked the Americans to resume efforts. I believe the logical answer would be that the side which does not want a decision against it will try to evade such a decision. As we know, the Israelis do not want to lose this case for political reasons. Perhaps, they think they can obtain more through these negotiations than before the court.

Our position before the court is strong. Therefore, we listen. He who wants to talk with us is welcome. We are not forced to accept anything. [passage omitted]

[Question] Are there moderates and hardliners among the Israelis regarding the Tabah issue?

[Mahir] We are dealing with the Israeli Government. Sometimes, we hear there are some quarters willing to reach an agreement and others unwilling to reach an agreement. However, we believe when a hardliner coalesces with a moderate, the moderate becomes captive to

the hardliner not vice versa. This does not only apply to this problem, but to all problems and disputes in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

[Question] If U.S. efforts to solve this issue outside the court succeeds what will be the court's stand?

[Mahir] If an agreement is reached, the two sides can present this agreement to the court for recognition. Just like any other court, when the two sides agree the problem ends by itself. However, I personally believe the court will continue its work and will issue its decision since all Israeli stands give rise to optimism regarding the possibility of reaching an agreement, especially in light of Egypt's adherence to its stand accepting no violation of its sovereignty and territory. [sentence as published] The political circumstances experienced by Israel do not imply that Israel is ready to reach an agreement. It will try to bargain in its own way to obtain an advantage it does not expect from the court. [passage omitted]

[Question] To what extent is the Tabah issue linked to the Middle East issue?

[Mahir] The two issues differ in form. The first is legal while the other is political. However, they are objectively interlinked because if Israel desires a settlement with the Arab states, it must prove goodwill. The Tabah issue is a test. If Israel succeeds in overcoming its nature and proves to be eager to have good relations with the Arab states, this would encourage the reaching of an agreement with Israel.

[Question] Is it possible the Israeli Government will agree to solve the Tabah issue in order to separate Egypt completely from the Arab cause?

[Mahir] No force can separate Egypt from the Arab states. Egypt has clearly explained that it is an indivisible part of the attempt to solve the problem and that it is eager to maintain a continuous presence in the Arab arena. No one will succeed in taking it away from the Arab countries.

If we presume this is Israel's objective, it would be considered baseless and a failure.

[Question] Is it in Egypt's interest to sit down and negotiate with Israel over the Tabah problem while unrest is increasing in Arab affairs and the occupied territories?

[Mahir] Our interest now is in liberating any land, be it from Tabah or elsewhere, as long as Egypt's line is clear and known and as long as the Arab states know exactly what they want Egypt to do. I don't think this is harmful. What is harmful is a vague Egyptian stand on the Arab issues. Therefore, Egypt and its stand are constant.

Mubarak Chairs Meeting

NC3004142188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Today, President Husni Mubarak met with the National Committee on Tabah. The conferees reviewed developments concerning U.S. ideas brought by Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser at the U.S. State Department, to find a settlement for the Tabah problem outside the court of arbitration.

This was stated by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who added that the committee will also meet with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

MENA has learned that reports circulated so far about the U.S. ideas on the Tabah issue are inaccurate and unsound.

Paper Lists Conditions

JN021630 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 May 88 pp 1, 2

[By Huda Tawfiq]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, President Husni Mubarak reviewed developments in the Tabah issue in light of U.S. proposals to settle the problem outside the court of arbitration. This was announced by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, after the president met with him along with members of the national committee on Tabah. [passage omitted]

A responsible Egyptian source has asserted to AL-JUMHURIYAH that Egypt is ready to listen to the U.S. proposals on the basis of the following clear points: full recognition of Egyptian demarcation of the internationally recognized borders; Egypt's full sovereignty over the area; and the condition that studying the proposed arrangements does not harm or conflict with Egyptian sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Legal Official Comments

NC0305111588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 May (MENA)—Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, has said that Egypt will not accept any new proposals by the United States which may affect Egypt's full sovereignty over Tabah, nor does it expect any. He noted that all the announcements in Israel regarding U.S. proposals are baseless.

In remarks published by the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, the Egyptian official disclosed that the U.S. proposals are based on Egypt's full sovereignty over Tabah, recognition of all the border demarcation posts claimed by Egypt, and on certain other arrangements that do not infringe Egypt's sovereignty.

He asserted that Egypt will not accept any encroachment on its full sovereignty over Tabah, nor will it agree to discuss any ideas that contradict that sovereignty.

Mahir pointed out that Egypt has informed the United States of its readiness to discuss any proposals on condition that they do not violate its sovereignty. He said: If this is Israel's stand, we say that the international arbitration procedures are still in progress and Egypt's position in this respect is strong.

Tabah 'Status Quo' Rejected

NC0405175388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, has stated that Israel told both Egypt and Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department legal adviser, of its decision to continue with the efforts to solve the Tabah problem through reconciliation.

In a statement broadcast by Israeli radio, Tamir expressed his belief that reconciliation must be based both on Egypt's demand to impose its sovereignty over Tabah and on what he called Israel's demand to maintain the status quo with regard to the management of the tourist establishments in the area, the movement of Israelis, and security affairs. Tamir added that the decision was made today during a meeting attended by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Commenting on this, a responsible source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry stated that Egypt has not been informed of anything of the sort and the notion of maintaining the status quo is rejected. The source added that when Egypt speaks about its sovereignty, it is speaking about all aspects of sovereignty and all its forms, and that Egypt rejects any infringement of it or any attempt to bypass it.

Al-Baz Receives Soviet Ambassador Zhuravlev

NC0205165088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today received Gennadiy Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

During the meeting they discussed the situation in the Middle East, current events in the occupied Arab territories, the results of the Soviet-U.S. talks, and the peace agreement on Afghanistan.

The Soviet ambassador said that Egypt had stressed its support for the peace agreement on Afghanistan, expressing the hope that the agreement would result in the establishment of peace in that region of the world.

The Soviet ambassador described the upcoming visit to Moscow by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as very important, indicating that it will boost Egyptian-Soviet relations in all areas, especially in the economic and trade fields.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid is scheduled to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union during the period 18-21 May. He will hold talks with the Soviet foreign minister and other high-ranking Soviet officials on bilateral relations and important international topics.

During the visit he will sign a protocol on economic and trade relations and technical cooperation between the two countries. He will also sign a document connected with the exchange of views between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC0305051888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2237 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola arrived in Cairo tonight for a 2-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, the Cuban vice minister will hold discussions with Egyptian officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

The Cuban official was welcomed at the airport by Ambassador Wahib al-Minyawi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Latin America Department, and Cuban Ambassador Horhiko Phylis [name as received].

Confers With Al-Baz

NC0405152288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, received here today Giraldo Mazola, Cuba's vice minister of foreign relations, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The two officials reviewed issues related to the conference of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries that will be held in Havana at the end of this month. They also discussed issues related to the preparatory conference for the extraordinary UN General Assembly session on disarmament, which is scheduled to be held after the U.S.-Soviet summit. They also discussed the latest developments in negotiations between the two superpowers.

Agreement Reached With Iraq To Form Committee

NC0305115388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 May (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Baghdad today, Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq Ibrahim 'Awf disclosed that agreement has been reached to set up a higher committee to be co-chaired by the prime ministers of Egypt and Iraq and to be comprised of specialized ministers. The aim of the committee, he added, is to promote bilateral relations in various fields.

The ambassador also noted that economic, trade, technical, information, and cultural subcommittees will emerge from this committee, with a view to studying industrial and agricultural projects as well as information and cultural cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted].

Court Releases 68 Islamic Fundamentalists

NC0405140488 Cairo MENA in English 1254 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Asyut, May 4 (MENA)—Sixty-eight members of the Islamic groups at Asyut University were released by a court rule.

They were held on charges of attacking a musical concert at the university two months ago.

Paper Notes 'Positive Shift' in Israeli Stand

JN021854 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Apr 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Peace Is Strongest"]

[Text] The Israelis have begun to use the term "uprising" instead of "disobedience" in their daily talk about the current events in the occupied territories. Observers paused at this positive shift in Israeli public opinion, considering it a new victory for stones in the face of bombs and bullets as the Palestinian hero strugglers succeeded in imposing the word "uprising" with all the meanings and hopes it reflects on the reality which the ordinary Israeli feels. This is a significant gain whose effects will appear within the coming days, especially with the approach of the general elections in Israel and in view of the solidity which the heroic uprising is acquiring day after day.

Shim'on Peres changed his election program and adopted a tougher line to win right-wing votes and surpass what the Likud bloc is presenting to the Israeli voter. This development and the use of the Palestinian term may overturn even the election programs and shift them in support of a final solution to the problem of the occupied territories. A large sector of Israelis have also begun to feel that this problem is like a time bomb that may shatter the Israeli dreams, especially since the structure of Israeli society is such that it cannot withstand a protracted confrontation and a partial mobilization in order to counter the uprising.

We expect the Israeli public soon to say: We have tried all means of repression, persecution, and violence against those who are expressing their cause and will with stones and Molotov cocktails. Why do we not then try the other solution, that is, negotiations for peace? We will give them back their land and allow them to exercize their legitimate rights. In our opinion, this expectation is corroborated by many factors detected by those coming from the occupied territories and by observers who are following developments there. Although some of these factors are still under the surface, the Israelis' use of the term "uprising" is an indicator which cannot be ignored, confirming the expectation because peace is eventually the strongest.

Libya

French Plan To Build Chadian Airport Criticized

LD0405170488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1547 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 May, JANA — The French minister of cooperation has announced that France has adopted an important decision regarding the establishment of a modern airport with asphalt runways in the town of Faya-Largeau in northern Chad.

The French minister added that those who say a modern airport with long runways implies the possibility of sending fighter aircraft to that airport...[incomplete sentence as received]

With regard to this, a source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made the following statement: This statement confirms the French Government's colonialist logic and France's determination to impose its direct domination on the Chadian people and territory.

The equipping of Ndjamena Airport and the building of military runways in Abeche, Faya-Largeau, and other regions of Chad are an indication of the return of direct military occupation to that African country.

The statement also confirms hostile intentions toward the peoples of the African Continent and proves the truthfulness of what we have previously warned regarding the dangers of the presence of foreign forces in Chad and the threat this poses to the peace and security of neighboring countries.

It is enough to remember the role played by the French [word indistinct] at Fort Lami in 1967 and 1968 in the aggression on the Nigerian state when it supported and backed the secession of Biafra, the continued raids by French aircraft during 1987 on villages in western

Sudan, and the role played by French forces in supporting the agent Habre's gangsters in their aggression on the southern part of the Great Jamahiriyah.

While the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab !amahiriyah strongly condemns this colonialist logic, which is opposed to the freedom of history, it retains the right to defend itself against any threat that may result from the presence of imperialist military bases near its international border.

French Envoy Summoned

LD0405182488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 May (JANA) — The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today summoned the French ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

The committee conveyed to him the Jamahiriyah's rejection of the statement made by the French minister for cooperation to Paris radio announcing the decision of the French Government concerning the new airport in Faya-Largeau, in northern Chad. The committee asked him for an explanation of these statements.

Official Criticizes Egypt for Camp David Accords

LD0405184088 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' [May] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Responding to a question from JANA's political editor regarding a statement the Egyptian regime's foreign minister gave to AL-SIYASAH Kuwaiti newspaper, an official source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stated the following:

Recently statements by Egyptian official had been in abundance on the nationalist initiative by the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution concerning the removal of boundaries set by colonialism between Great Jamahiriya and the neighbouring sisterly Arab countries and his announcement that Jamahiriya is the country for all Arabs, granting the freedom of movement for citizens between Jamahiriya and sisterly countries—including Egypt, the withdrawal of military concentrations from the borders with Egypt and the declaration of Jamahiriya's readiness to listen to the justifications from the Egyptian regime for its continued preservation of the treacherous David stable accords.

At the same time we confirm the firmness of the Libyan Arab stance — expressed by the leader's initiative, we seek to clarify the following:

Libyan policies and stances are clear and constant. It matches deeds with words. Our stance towards the David stable accords did not, and will never change. This represents a national treason and surrender to the enemy which aims at the very Arab existence itself.

On that base, we have rejected, and continue to reject any dealing with the Egyptian regime as long as it continues to adhere to the Camp David accords and to normalise its relations with the enemy.

Such a stance stems from the understanding of the truth about the Arab-Zionist conflict. It is regrettable that an Arab official speaks about rhetoric to Arab existence.

Some have been accustomed to talk for each side in a different language it wishes to hear while it knows that the Egyptian regime talks to the Arabs about the Camp David accords and its relations with the enemy—a language its deeds refute.

What is the Egyptian regime practically translating through its relations with the U.S. and the Zionist enemy contradicts with what it is saying to the Arabs.

The Libyan stance is firm and rigid, for it stems from a free resolve no one has any influence upon—as in the case of those who look for excuses and feeble proofs to justify stances that contradict with the national interests.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Basic People's Congress

LD0305120888 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1935 GMT 2 May 88

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Basic People's Congress in Tripoli; from the studio—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. I hope your fasting is accepted by God. In the name of God, on the occasion of the holding of emergency people's congresses which were called for by the standing secretariat of the General People's Congress based on its proposal of 2 March, the anniversary of the declaration of the establishment of the people's power and the Jamahiriyah, I want to explain some points which I think are fundamental and important for the people's congresses to discuss.

Naturally, the decision is up to the people's congresses in the jamahiri system. What concerns me is that the revolutionary decisions I have made, and the practical side of those decisions, should have a permanent character; they should not be violated, because I want freedom to be confirmed and people to be reassured, because worries in one's life spoil one's happiness—especially worries concerning one's freedom, conduct, or economic and political condition.

Security—who provides them with food against hunger and security against fear—fear must be combated and defeated. Worry must be cleared away, so that we can set off in high spirits, and, thank God, the people are in high spirits these days, and this is what we want. It does not matter whether we are rich or poor, or whether we are at war or living in peace. What matters is that we have high morale. This is a fundamental precondition for life, progress, and creation.

I want the people's morale to be high, and that of our future generations and our nation. This cannot come about through nonsense; it can take place by stressing the defeat of fear and worry. The safeguard of liberty is fundamental, and any seemingly incorrect practices that took place in the past as a result of the violent and important changes over almost 20 years were compulsory and right, and without which the revolution might have failed, the people's achievements might have been threatened, and the people's power might not have existed.

The revolutionary and violent measures, including capital punishment and prison—all the measures that were taken in the past—were in fact right. They were decisive measures that had to be taken to secure the march for change. But now the people's power is confirmed, and we want to start a new period wherein everything is devoted to the people's service, the confirmation of the people's power, and the safety of the future of the people. We want it to be the entire Arab people's future, not that of the Libyan Arab people only.

Among the things that, in my opinion, emphasize and consolidate the freedom of the citizen and help him eliminate fear and worry about his future are the following points which I submit tonight to the people's congresses.

First, concerning imprisonment: Imprisonment is the restriction of freedom. Should a human being be imprisoned or free? This is a question which should be defined with precision. Imprisonment should only be for those whose freedom constitutes a danger or a corruption for others. Those whose freedom does not constitute a danger or a corruption for others should not be imprisoned. You cannot imprison two people who have a fight, or somebody who is late, or somebody who is absent. He who is imprisoned is a lost human being. If we take a soldier from battle and lock him up, what would we benefit from his period of imprisonment?

The conditions for imprisonment have been exaggerated to a great extent. For everything — imprison, imprison, imprison! Imprisonment could be replaced with something else. It could be replaced with a fine, or with [word indistinct], or with disapprobation. It could be replaced with a redoubling of work, or with transfer from one place to another, and so on. Everything which can be considered as an obstacle or deterrent could...[changes thought] We could avoid imprisonment because he who is imprisoned is a human being we lost; we locked him up. How can we benefit from someone who is locked up?

Therefore, for whom should imprisonment be? It is for those whose freedom constitutes a danger or a corruption for others. If your freedom constitutes a danger or a corruption for others, the longer you are free the more of a danger or a corruption you will be. In this case, your freedom should be restricted. This is something logical and natural, and two people cannot differ over it. But who should decide that the freedom of this individual constitutes a danger or a corruption for others? The court; the court should assess this. It is for no one but the court to decide.

The death penalty: It is my opinion that the death penalty should be cancelled, not only in Libya but in the whole world because it is a repugnant penalty and, as I have said, only He who created man should be the one to interfere in his life. However, I know that the people do not accept this and that this is the second time I have proposed the cancellation of the death penalty. The first time the proposal was rejected, and I expect it will be rejected this time on a number of pretexts.

On the military side, military men say that whoever runs away from the field, leaves his weapons to the enemy, shows weakness, causes a military defeat for the country, or the occupation of part of the homeland should be executed so that other will not emulate him, thus leading to a collapse on the front. Those who interpret the Koran which is directed at the Israelis just as it is directed at the Muslims, [words indistinct] an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth—this is directed at the sons of Israel. However, you cannot convince the Muslims that this is directed at the sons of Israel. Few of those who read the Koran are aware that this is directed at the sons of Israel. Nevertheless, those who use religion as a pretext, in particular, Islam, say that he who kills must in turn be killed, and so on. I know all these pretexts will ensure that the death penalty will remain.

To whom should the death penalty apply? The death penalty should properly apply to the person whose life constitutes a danger or a corrupting influence on the organization of society—not his freedom, his life. Thus, if we imprison him he would still constitute a danger for or a corrupting influence on society, for individuals, for the whole society. Let us take an example. Let us assume we have a herd of gazelles. One of the gazelles butts the other, or eats its food, or if one gives birth, the other kills its offspring. How do you deal with it, when you have a group of goats, cows, sheep, or gazelles on a farm and one of them behaves in a vicious manner? Do you kill it? No, this is not right, you do not kill it. You isolate it. This is because its freedom, so long as it is free to move around the farm, constitutes a danger or a corrupting influence on the others. You do not slay it. If a goat butts other goats, you do not kill it. No, you tie it up in one place. This is imprisonment. Its freedom constitutes a danger or a corrupting influence on others. Precisely, this is imprisonment.

However, let us assume that another—a goat, or a gazelle with other gazelles, a cow with other cows, for example, a she camel with a group of other she camels or bull camels—has a dangerous infectious disease, or suffers from rabies, madness, wants to kill the other animals, or harm them with its germs. What do you do with it? Do you isolate it? If you do, the germs will spread—even though it is isolated—to the same environment and area, and cause danger or rot. As

soon as the vet sees it, he will say put it down. Why? Because its life, not its freedom, its life constitutes a danger or a corruption for the entire herd.

You see this is in actual fact capital punishment. It involves one whose life constitutes a danger to the entire society, to the authority of the people, to the economic system, to the faith of the people. Even if we imprisoned this person, he would still constitute a danger or corrupting influence. Who decides the degree of this danger or corruption? The court; this is the quarter which can pronounce the death sentence.

If curtailing the freedom of this person means isolating this creature's evil, then we should curtail his freedom. However, even after curtailing his freedom, as I said about the goat [as heard] whose germs can spread even while in quarantine, it should be sentenced to death under the veterinary law.

Let us suppose there is a hope for one who is sentenced to death. For instance, what he had done deserved a reduction in the sentence? What does this mean? Someone was sentenced to death but says: Instead of sentencing me to death, I am prepared to lose one of my limbs, and as a humanitarian act, you should not kill me but you should cut off one limb or take away my sight; cut off my legs, my feet, my hands. For example, someone comes and says: If you give me a choice do not kill me but blind me or cut off my hands or my feet. Do not execute me; cut out my tongue instead. This is probable. His last resort is that he should have a way out as in this example.

In any case, all these things constitute the backbone and we want them to be the backbone of any document issued by the people's congresses to confirm the human rights of the jamahiri society and to be declared to the entire world concerning noninterference in private relations and private behavior. Libyans, sons of the jamahiri society should be free people in their personal behavior, customs, and traditions, and they should be given complete freedom. No quarter of any kind, neither morality police, traffic police, nor any other police, should have the right to interfere. So long as you are behaving correctly, they have no right to interfere. You also have no right to interfere. For example, people today are harassed by the morality police. Such a thing infringes on freedom. You are afraid to go out in the street. At times without cause you are asked: Who is this woman with you? You say: My wife. If so, where is the marriage certificate? What kind of thing is this? Am I supposed to carry the certificate in my pocket?

There should be no interference in such things unless one of the two sides makes a complaint. I think there should be no interference in private relations or behavior except when one of the two sides makes a complaint, or when such behavior contradicts morals and public morality, or causes harm, or corrupts society. If your behavior corrupts or violates morals and morality or is harmful, only then should the morality police and the other police intervene. However, if your behavior does not constitute a violation of morals and public morality, or is neither harmful nor corrupting to society, then no one should intervene. And on this occasion, the morality police should be abolished.

If one side complains.... [changes thought] Pardon me for saying this: A man and a woman are traveling in a car. Let us suppose that one of them is abducted. He or she should seek refuge in the police station or should go to the police station, scream, do something to attract attention. In this case, the police should intervene. Why? Because someone is screaming inside this car and is crying for help. Then the police should intervene. However, if two people are laughing as they walk or travel in car, why should anyone interfere? What sort of thing is this?

Some people have fled the country as a result of this harassment. They had no political problems nor were they against the revolution, socialism, Arab unity, or Palestine. Why have they fled? Because they could not find their freedom in the street where one at least expects to be able to walk with his fiance or wife or sometimes with a sister. Why should he be harassed? We are not animals. If no one complains, why should we interfere? If we have not sought help, why should you interfere? Many people have fled because of such interference. The authorities think this interference is revolutionary justice. It is not revolutionary justice.

Private ownership is among the items that must be confirmed along with man's freedom. Your happiness is part of your freedom. Every man should be happy. Private ownership should result from legitimate efforts and a legitimate situation. It is a sacred thing. It must not be touched at all except in the public interest, in accordance with the law, and in a just way.

If you bought a house through your own sweat and efforts, you own it, you bought it, and you built it. Or if you have a farm [words indistinct] with your effort. I mean, with one's own effort—the result of a legitimate production, not theft, connections, or as a result of rubbing shoulders with people or as a result of nepotism or bribery. No, private property as a result of a legitimate effort. [sentence as heard] If you confirmed that this is property resulting from legitimate effort, it should be holy.

Property has to have a legal status. I mean you cannot take land that is designated for building construction in the middle of town and set up a farm. No, that is illegal. It is also illegal to build a dwelling on the main road, to come and build a dwelling in front of a school or a hospital and say: By God, this is my land or the land of my grandfather, and I have built a dwelling here, and I am free and [words indistinct] freedom. No, it must have legal status, and in such cases our status is not legal. It is contrary to public planning; it is contrary to public interest. Roads have to be clear, and public places must have a clear way, without congestion and without houses obstructing their view.

With my own legitimate efforts and with my own legitimate status, if it is thus, then it should be holy, whether it is fixed or portable—funds, animals, [words indistinct] property, trees, [words indistinct] or whatever. [sentence as heard] Private property is one of the foundations of freedom. I am talking about the consolidation of freedom. Your private property is what makes you free, free to deal with your own private things, with your own private property.

With a legitimate effort and legitimate status, it is holy and does not harm the public interest. It is known, unless we said we want to build a hospital in this area, the hospital needs a surrounding wall, and your house will fall within the confines of this wall. We would have to demolish the house in accordance with the law. There is a law in the country, in every country, which says that property should be demolished in accordance with certain laws and compensation. They will come to assess the value of the dwelling. They will build you another house; they will not demolish it until they have built you another house in another place of your choice. You will say: This is correct; it is not reasonable for me to set up a private dwelling inside the hospital wall. This is what I mean by the public interest. If we want to build a road which passes through your farm, you will be compensated for it because this road is in the public interest.

The sons of the jamahiri society in peacetime: In peacetime they should be free in their choice of residence, in movement, to any place in the world. That means that Libyans should have the freedom of movement to go to Tunisia, Egypt, the Sudan, Hawaii, Hong Kong. Free. However, do not tell me: You said I am free so give me 5,000 of our local currency so that I can can leave with it; I have (?5000) dinars in my bank account. Look, every country in the world places limits on how much money can go abroad because these are hard-currency accounts; they are charged to the balance of your country's account. It is possible that one day you will all leave with your money, and the country will go bankrupt. Your money is charged to the country's account. You should know this; it concerns you.

In your people's congresses you decide how many thousands may leave or how many millions may leave for the hajj, tourism, or medical treatment. This concerns you. However, you are free to go wherever your money can take you, and he who is permitted to go can go anywhere in the world. God willing, you may want to go and spy on the Israelis' as far as I am concerned, you can even go to Palestine. Go; so what? If you are no good, God willing, you go; it is better if you do not remain here and if we do not know about you. If you want to go to the Israelis so they can brainwash you and conscript you, good. Let us find out and expose you. We have an intelligence service which can expose spies. If you are concerned about your nation and homeland and want to go to Palestine and you obtain for us information about it or carry out a guerrilla operation, then welcome. As far as I am concerned, you are free to go to any country in the world.

Sons of the jamahiri society must be [word indistinct] free to travel anywhere in the world, unlike the Americans who are forbidden to go to Nicaragua, Libya, Democratic Korea, or Angola. They have a President who has martial law, martial laws; the United States is a dictatorship. Who says it is democratic? By God, it is the foremost dictatorial country. That President sits down [word indistinct] and writes: This country is forbidden, and that country is forbidden. U.S. companies are forbidden to work here, and U.S. individuals are not allowed.

There was a U.S. citizen in Libya and they sentenced him to 90 years imprisonment. Ninety years is a long time. How long is he expected to live? He was 60 years old and was sentenced to 90 years. At least they could have said life imprisonment; 20 or 15 years, instead of destroying a human being's morale [words indistinct]. Ninety years, the despair—he would live in despair. Execution in the United States is by electric chair. It is extremely horrifying. By electricity—they tie you to a chair and execute you by electricity.

We must all struggle to end evil against man. This is in times of peace, because in wartime the sons of the jamahiri society must be present in their society to defend the jamahiriyah. Hard labor has been abolished in Libya, and we will struggle to have it abolished all over the world.

We must stress that the society's wealth belongs to all members of the society on an equal basis; divided to them equally. The members of society can only be different in that each may develop his share of society's wealth or provide more services to society. The society will suffice. Why should we find a poor Libyan and a rich Libyan, or someone whose standard of living is low and another whose standard is high; now, from now on. [as heard] What are the reasons for this?

Either this one has accumulated his share of the society's wealth, which he has received justly, and knew how to manage it; and the other did not know how to manage it, bought [word indistinct], went abroad, and became penniless. The other used it to set up a farm; bred sheep, camels; set up a workshop; or learned a skill. He made it grow. That is alright. It is his share of the society's wealth. One person wastes it, and the other makes it grow. Unlike the past when you used to employ workers, steal, receive bribes, change currency, and other kinds of swindling to [word indistinct] wealth, [word in local dialect] and let him go to hell.

If you make your wealth grow, your share of society's wealth, your standard of living will be higher than those who waste their share. If you offer greater service to society, society will reward you for it. If you learn something that benefits society, society will reward you more. I believe that a nurse's income should be different from a doctor's. The nurse took a shortcut; made less effort; and he, therefore, will be only a nurse. Although we need him, of course. He is needed. The doctor has

borne a lot and has specialized in important things; he provides more service. Maybe the nurse provides more service to the society than a doctor. How? He may provide more service than required of him at the hospital or clinic.

He may treat a large number of people; he may become a revolutionary nurse and provide a service. Maybe the society will reward him, and his income will be more than a doctor's. As much as you provide a service to the society, not as much as you steal, swindle, and plunder [words indistinct]. Society's wealth belongs to all its members, to be divided among them equally, and they are only different in their effort in utilizing their shares or by providing more services to the society. Sons of the jamahiri society are free from exploitation; we must make them free from exploitation. Those who produce, consume what they produce. You are free. Do any kind of work you like in Libya on the condition that you do not exploit anyone.

You know my views on consumer skills of such as the baker, piemaker, barber, photographer, trumpeter; all these are services which society may need. However, when this door opens, it will admit a large number of people with skills for which there is no need. They will not help us reach the moon, develop the atom and the laser, desalinate sea water, create agrarian reforms, build steel foundries. Things which, in fact, do not benefit us. Suppose that half of all Libyans made pies. How would we benefit from that? The piemaker would say: bring me flour, fat, and eggs to mix together. Where do we get these things? However, despite this any of you piemakers who works hard will benefit from your own hard sweat. It is alright. If you work for someone else, then it has to be as a partner not a hired hand. Sons of the jamahiri society are free from wages and from becoming enslaved by them. They are partners, not hired hands.

Partners and not hired hands—the entire world must be told this: partners and not hired hands. It is forbidden for anyone to hire someone else. You thus take the fruit of his labor and his sweat by hiring him. It is disgraceful to hire a human being. Hire a human being? No. One can hire a camel or a donkey or a plow horse. Someone comes along and says to you: I want to hire this mule to use in ploughing the land. That is okay. But to hire a human being like a slave? No. This is slavery pure and simple. The Green Book no longer exists, and instead slavery exists in Libya, and Libyans are slaves. All it needs is for a businessman to come to Libya and take a member of Libyans and employ them for 8 hours. He gives them five and takes three back; and this is in the best of cases. Slaves, slavery — it is like the slave markets about which we used to learn a long time ago. A human being who is exactly like the next man hires you in the same way he hires a donkey or plow horse.

In the jamahiri society we should be free of the system of hire and its slavery because hired hands are like slaves no matter how far improved their conditions may be. They are slaves to the person who hires them. Consequently, they should be partners and not hired hands. If 2, 4, 10, 20, 60 Libyans want to become partners, they are free to do so. They can engage in contract work. They can build houses, manage farms, build roads and drainage systems. They can do anything they want to do but as partners. You can set up a company that builds houses or a construction company, but the owners of the company should be partners. No one of them should be an employer who hires hands in order to use them in building houses and takes away the fruit of their sweat, gives them a little of it, and keeps the rest, to come later and say: I am rich because I am a contractor.

We must stress that land, is owned by all; everyone should exploit it with his own effort but without exploiting others in doing so to fulfill his needs. That is it; The story has come to and end, the story that says: This land belongs to this person or that person. If we divide it in this manner, Libyans will start fighting one another, like someone who goes to another tribe to till a piece of land and they don't let him till it. Meanwhile the Americans come along. Instead of fighting each other, why don't we fight the Americans, for instance? We have fought in every spot in Libya. All Libyans fought at Al-Qardabiyyah.

If someone from Al-Jabal al-Akhdar comes to Al-Qardabiyyah, tell him: No, you cannot do so because Al-Qardabiyyah comes within the boundary of the so-and-so tribe. You then answer him, saying: No, my grandfather came to Al-Qardabiyyah where he fought and gave his life. Here are his remains. What would be your answer? This land belongs to all Libyans. Each of them should cultivate it and raise his sheep on it or turn it into a farm as best he can. Land is owned by all.

We have become free from feudalism. We must declare that representation is humbug. We are free from anyone who dominates us. The congresses and the committees are everywhere. Each person is free to say whatever he likes at the people's congresses. We also declare that the house belongs to its occupier. Who is the occupier? The occupier is the one who buys or builds the house, not the one who seizes the house. For instance, you move into a house that does not belong to you. Its owner is abroad or he is abroad with his family undergoing medical treatment, and he locked up his house. You come along 2, 3, or 4 days later to occupy it. This is stealing; this is a criminal act. Just because there is no one in the house does not mean you can take it over. The house belongs to its occupier and to the one who builds or buys it, and not to those who force entry.

We should be free from paying rent. There should be no one like the woman I saw yesterday on television. This is the suffering that is being endured in other countries and (?must not happen) here. An (?official) came along and told her: Leave the house. You have not paid this month's rent. She gave him her own bread, her dinner; she said: Here take this and deduct it from the rent on

your house. This is because she lived in a house that did not belong to her. See the extent of exploitation. What sort of life is this? She is better off dead.

The jamahiri society is the guardian of people who have no one to protect them: anyone who is disabled, becomes mentally ill, or so sick that he cannot earn his living; anyone who suffers a calamity like losing his house or his farm to fire—the jamahiri society takes care of him through social security. Nobody can come along and say: I have been orphaned and have been tossed about from one person to another or from my cousin to my uncle. No, your cousin or uncle are the jamahiri society. All people's committees responsible for social security investigate all such cases. These cases are recorded at the time, investigated, and recorded at the people's committees of the localities.

All orphans should be brought up in respectable places which provide education, are hygienic, and have people to look after them. All the disabled (?should be) at places for the disabled; all the elderly and those who have no one to look after them should be looked after by society in the establishments for the care of the elderly where they can be treated, fed, and kept clean until they die.

The jamahiri society is the guardian of those who have no guardian. A woman is divorced, she goes home, she is widowed with nothing to live on. Social security will protect her. That is why each of us contributes part of his salary to social security. He contributes part of his income from his farm, his workshop, or from any activity; he pays something to this fund or to this budget so that we can then cover the needs of others. You may find that you were paying for yourself if you become needy. Any human being can suffer an emergency.

The freedom of education, as we emphasized on 7 April, the freedom of education: The sons of the jamahiri society are free; they can be educated in any subject they want and which suits them. Women are to be educated in accordance with the curriculum which equips her for work that suits her. She does not have to be compelled to do the work of men, to be educated in men's education which will guide her to the arduous work of men. No, perhaps women will not refuse, with her freedom she may want arduous work. She is free. This is the curriculum of arduous work! The work of women? This is her curriculum which will lead to that work!

Everybody is free, including in their work. Let us assume I am a civil servant. I may tell them: I am free, and I only want to work 2 hours. Give me 2 hours' pay. I work 6 hours, for example, and I earn 300 Libyan dinars. I tell you that I do not want to work 6 hours; I want to work 2 hours.

What does this mean? It means that you give me 100 dinars. I am free. I work 2 hours, and for the remainder of the time I want to worship, play sports, or do some other work. I will do this job for 2 hours a day, and give me 2 hours' work [as heard]. Somebody comes along and says: I only want to work 4 hours. Give me the remuneration. It means you make 200 dinars. You make 300 dinars for 6 hours' work; if you work 4 hours it means you make 200. Alright, good. He tells you: Yes, I want 200 because I only want to work 4 hours. As for the remainder of the time, I want to spend it doing other work. Complete freedom!

You can be educated in any subject you like. If a student at preparatory school wants to go to a workshop, he can go to a workshop. It is not important. If a secondary school student does not want to go to university, okay. If a university student wants to transfer to another subject, it should be available to him. All means should now be available. Workshops should be available everywhere. Education should be everywhere, not only education in schools. No, your teacher could be an instructor who teaches you to combat agricultural [word indistinct]; to become a painter, a builder, a musician, a decorator, anything. Anywhere I go, I should find a place where I can be taught. This is the teacher, this is the school. Other types of education are also available—the secondary school, the university, higher education. People should not be compelled to go through one channel.

Libyans who are abroad: As I told you, perhaps 99 percent of them have gone abroad for very trivial reasons, not for aggressive reasons against the revolution and jamahiri society. Consequently, we again call upon them: He who wants to return is free to do so. He who wants to return and then go abroad again is free to do so. He who wants to remain abroad is free to do so. There are Libyans who think that if they do not return they will be on the blacklist. There is no longer any blacklist! I would like to see a quarter of Malta's population Libyan! Good. Go, he who wants to go abroad and set up a shop in Tunisia, Malta, or Italy. He is free. If that country permits you to do so, then go ahead. You want to work as a merchant, and you used to be a merchant before, you want to set up a shop in another country, then you are free. I wish we could go to some country and find a whole street of Libyan shops. If one goes to Italy one would find one of its islands colonized by Libyans, where they have immigrated, settled, and are engaged in trade and even political activities; free. [sentence as heard]

Any Libyan who does not want to return is free not to. It is as simple as that. He should know this. But his loyalty must be to his homeland, to his nation, and to its cause, so that he may be considered as one of us. He should say: look, listen to me—I want to settle permanently in Britain, but I am your brother and I am with you. He can come and say this to us, or he can say it to us through an emissary. This is just for him to be sure and reassured.

But who cannot come? Who, among the Libyans abroad, cannot come back after the complete and assertive victory, by which Libyans are now making laws and living under a constitution? It is he who knows that he has sold himself to the Americans, the Israelis, and the enemies of the Arab nation. It is he who is currently tying

himself up with the U.S. intelligence and the Israeli Mosad. This is the one who cannot come back, because he knows that he is compromised. The remainder of Libyans must understand that he who does not come back, show his face, and does not declare that he is living abroad but remains on your side, then this person has sold himself to the enemy. Is such a person a human being? He is a stray dog, that is all.

Therefore, all Libyans, I am sure, at least to absolve themselves, should say: We are not stray dogs; we are not involved with U.S. intelligence. This is so we can know who is linked with U.S. and Israeli intelligence. There are actually only a few. This would expose them and reveal them. But it is he who does not come back that knows he has sold himself to the devil, to the Americans and the Israelis. He can not come back because they have put a halter on his nose and are dragging him along. They have harnessed him like Al-Sadat and his successor. They drag them to the right and then to the left. How can somebody return who has been saddled and used as a mount? He cannot return because an American is riding him and holding him by the reins.

You have seen them, those who were living abroad. They have sent you bombs, bombs and poison. They are staying out there in the United States, and they send in naive Libyans. They tell them: go and die; like the ones executed in Ramadan [the televised hangings in Libya] a horrible execution, the execution that has made me decide that the death sentence must be abolished; it made me decide to bring this matter to your attention.

Who tricked them? They were tricked by those who are used by the Americans as mounts, leading them by the reins; those who are out there in the streets of the United States, eating and drinking with the Americans. They push forward naive Libyans, telling them: go, take explosives and enter Libya, where you will either die or be put in jail. You have caught them. You have slaughtered some, and you have handed back some, and some are still in prison. Who was behind them? It is those who serve U.S. intelligence, which is using them as mounts, holding them by the reins and dragging them to the right and left. These are not human beings; they are donkeys. They cannot come back, because the reins are not in their own hands; they are in the hands of the Americans, the Americans, the U.S. intelligence officer dealing with a group of Libyans. That is his job, because the United States is fighting Libya, and it has found dogs.

These words must be heard by Libyans abroad so that they can wash their hands of this limited and dirty grouplet. Any Libyan who says "I have been wronged" must lodge a complaint with the people's court, the court set up by the people's congresses. There must be appeals and overrulings in this court. I want this people's court to be a refuge for Libyans from any wrongdoing, especially those that may result from the carrying out of revolutionary political and economic measures. This even includes past matters. Any Libyan who has been wronged, even those whom I have freed from jail, if one of them now wants to lodge a complaint, he can do so. He might say: I have been wronged; I have been wrongly jailed for so many years; this person has trespassed on me or this person had wronged me. If he seeks this kind of redress, then fine—let him lodge a complaint with the people's court.

If somebody has had his house or farm taken away from him and he says: This is legally my property, my asset; I worked for it; I did not steal it; I did not get it by corruption, by trickery, or from the people—then this person can have his property back. Any woman, man, elderly person, or youth can lodge a complaint; and if it effectively becomes clear to the people's court that he is telling the truth, then assuredly his property will be returned to him.

A people's court is not like the revolutionary courts. People's courts must be permanent, not a special court. It enforces laws issued by the people's congresses. It is set up by the people's congresses. I want it to be a guarantee for anyone whose political, economic or social rights are violated. Look into the status of the people's court. Its status must cover these questions, so that anyone can have recourse to the people's court.

Even if a Libyan deliberately stays abroad it is a proof of freedom. He does not need to come back. If a Libyan leaves and stays abroad, this is proof of his freedom. He can go to any country and say: I will live in this country. I am not a fugitive. I assure you that I am free. My country allows me to live in any place in the world.

Why was the law concerning military conscription issued? One reason I will not talk about; I have already told you about it in Saluq. The other reason is that men conscripted for 1 year are being kept for 5 years, and those conscripted for 5 years are being kept for 15 years, and officials who are transferred stay for many years. I want all this to end. People were conscripted off the streets. People have been arrested and sent to the Army. I want to see and end to all this. Everyone should know that when he reaches a certain age and graduates he will have to spend only 24 months in the Army. When he finishes, his place will be taken by someone else.

Whenever there is war, you cannot put down your arms. Certainly, every one of us has to take part in it, and the others follow after. When one is discharged and returns to his ordinary job, he will receive periodic training to keep up military skills. In case of war, all these people who have been trained will be mobilized for combat. In peacetime, the Israeli Army at times has only 11,000 men, and at times it reaches 70,000. In wartime, hundreds of thousands are mobilized, thus outnumbering Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Arab countries like Iraq or others which come to their rescue. They mobilize 400,000 to 500,000. What is this due to? This is due to military conscription which lasts 18 months, and 24

months, then they are discharged. Others come after, and are discharged. But in wartime, they are all mobilized. This is called the general call or general mobilization.

All those who have received military training and have been discharged from the Israeli Army then have to join their units. They do not hesitate or run away [words indistinct].

During the Ramadan war [of October 1973] the Egyptian Army crossed the Suez Canal and captured all of Sinai after destroying the Bar-Lev line. No more than 4 days later, 400,000 Israeli soldiers came, repulsed the Egyptian Army, surrounded the 3d Army, crossed the Canal for the first time and threatened Cairo; and I myself went to defend Cairo. I went on a night [words indistinct] by parachute, and found Cairo in darkness and the (?soldiers) about 30 km away. I am an eyewitness to this.

There were 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers, and it was a holiday. The Egyptian Army swept them away. The Israelis then declared general mobilization. All those who had had military training had to go to Sinai, and others to the Golan. As you can see, they did not say "why should we go to a desert like Sinai." They immediately met at the Suez Canal, which they crossed. What were those who crossed the Suez Canal doing? They were clerks, merchants, farmers, and so on. Even the military commanders who were summoned had been in agriculture or in health. They threw off civilian suits, put on uniforms, and came to command at the front.

This has to be clear. How could we be chasing him like a mouse from one hole to another? You have to spend 24 months; and I believe there is no one who would want Libya to be invaded from either north or south. We have to spend 24 months under arms, and that should be fine either in war or in peace.

I want the issues that I have been mentioning not be infringed; and he who impairs them is to be considered as a criminal. These matters must be immutable. I want them to be permanent, and anything that transgresses them should be banned. However, the thing that should be forbidden in this society is clandestine activity. What leads to clandestine activity is the prohibition of practicing something in the open. But we have said that if it is an action for the benefit of society, mention it at the people's congresses, mention it at your people's congress. If your people's congress adopts it, it will become an article for the basic people's congresses all over the Jamahiriyah. Then convince the Jamahiriyah about this, convince the people's congresses and it will become a program.

Submit your program. When one sets up a party, he has a political program. fine, let all the people—not parties—adopt this political program. Say: Libyan people, I have a beneficial political program for you. Submit it to them, and let them adopt it if it is beneficial, and let us discuss it, because he who creates a party says: I have a political program for the benefit of this country, and he who agrees with this program joins me. The people who support him form a party in order to rule and implement their program. Now, those who rule—the people, those who rule themselves and their country at the people's congresses—will implement the program if they are convinced by it. Come to those who rule—the people—and let them be convinced by the program so they will adopt it as a party adopts a program, and also rules to implement the program. The people now rule. Show them your program: explain the program to them; convince them that the program is beneficial, with a view to implementing it, because the people are the rulers.

Then why act clandestinely? This means that you are doing something which we do not agree on, which we, the people, do not agree on; and it is not in our interest; and if we discover it, we will consider it criminal and destroy it. Consequently, you are doing it secretly to take us by surprise in order to sabotage society; or you have something personal concerning your tribe, or your group, or a foreign state. Clandestine activity is forbidden. Why use clandestine activity when everything is allowed? Express yourself freely. The freedom of expression...[changes thought] You do not have only free expression.

You are ruling; you are making decisions. Say anything. Write on the walls and sign it. Once we have read it, return to erase it. And I am the guarantor. Any Libyan can write on the walls, on the one condition that he signs his real name. Once we have read it, he can come to erase it and say thank you. We also thank him for having explained to us things we did not understand before. God bless you, for having contributed to our consciousness. I wish we could read things wherever we go. Graffiti on walls, leaflets on the road, newpapers, radio, in order to be educated, because we are an illiterate people. The whole nation is illiterate.

Truly, this would enhance our culture. They put wall posters in big letters and we pass while driving our cars and read them. The house belongs to whom? Not to those who seized it, but to the one who purchased, occupied, or built it. Partners and not hired hands. This person is not a good person; that person is a person who is being sought by the authorities; the popular committee has failed; a factory includes this and that person; and here there is an infiltrator; or a certain person works for foreign intelligence service; there is a good person and you have no idea about whether he is a good person; or I have an idea about doing this or that, or I have a method for doing this or that; I am at the so and so place and I am not allowed to do this or that. Write; write; write anything.

If you do not want to express yourself on a wall poster write on a piece of paper. If you do not have a pen use charcoal. Write your name. Write your name and say I am Mr so and so and I bear the responsibility. We are free people. If it is something that is legitimate you are responsible. They call you in and they debate it with you. They ask you where is this thing or where is this place; the parties concerned would be saying this to you.

Clandestine work must be prohibited. It has no justification. The use of force—all kinds of force and not only armed force; the use of muscle force; the force of the tribe; the force of the party; the force of a grouping; the force of congregating [jamharah]; economic force; money; pressure; all these things constitute force: This sort of force is prohibited because it means that you do not wish to convince us. You have nothing with which you can convince; you want to apply any pressure in order that to make us submit and accept. This is not freedom. It is a direct threat to freedom when force is used. You have an army; police force; you have a tribe; you want to impose yourself or your idea; in other words, you can kill someone and then use your force and say: No I am not going to stand trial in court. I have a force and I have a tribe; I have a group; I have a military barracks; you close it and you tell the soldiers: Go and guard from outside. How great! What freedom! This sort of thing threatens our freedom. From where do you obtain this potential?

The use of all kinds of force is prohibited. Everything is democratic; you can speak; and you can do things: You can do whatever you like on condition that you persuade people with your actions. The one who fails to convince us is rejected. Conspiring from abroad is a well known issue: It is treason; subservience; agentry.

Another thing: the exploitation of religion. We do not approve of exploiting religion. Religion is a sacred thing. It must not be tampered with either from afar or near. The teachings of religion you can apply to yourself, to your family.

Appeals for the path of God to be followed are wise and good advice; in this way you can go to the mosque and tell people that they should pray and keep the fast because it is a good thing. But those who are sick, or who are traveling, can fast at other times. You can teach us the rules of the religion but you must not invent things: This or that person said this or said that. Or, the Qadyani said this or said that. There are hundreds of people encroaching on Islam. This is the result of tampering with religion. You have seen what tampering with religion has created: It created the Baha'i religion, the Qadyani religion; the Al-Ahmadiyyah; the Shi'ites and the Sunnis in Islam; the Druze; the 'Alawites—all these are the sects that branched out from Islam.

The Koran says that this is sin. Those who gang up on someone, or who follow different sects, are sinners. It says that religion belongs to God and not to people. Anyone who forms a party in the name of religion, forms a group in the name of religion, or a front in the name of religion, he is playing with a very sensitive matter, a spiritual matter: He seeks to steal our minds, he wants to dominate us via sacred things and wants to impose himself on us as a god; or he wants to become a god or a prophet. This is not allowed in any form. This sort of thing creates war. If someone harms religion, it leads to war. Anyone who harms religion is trying to impose his influence on some spiritual matter. He wants to fool us and plays tricks on us through it.

You have seen how the Arab east, the bleeding Arab east, has been torn into a hundred pieces. Why is it torn to pieces? Because religion has been exploited in social life; in tribal life; in national life. Now it is taken for granted that a Muslim who is not an Arab belongs to the Sh'ite religion. Islam has become a number of religions. He who is not Persian, he follows the Qadyani religion. The Qadyani comes along and says that he is Muslim. The Ahmadi comes along and says that he is a Muslim. The Baha'i comes along and says that he is Muslim. Sidi 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani; Sidi [names indistinct]. Countless factions and sects.

Today, fighting is going on in the streets; there was fighting yesterday in Beirut; this one is a follower of this faction and that one is from another faction. Religion is unity—and everyone belongs to a different faction. Their strength disappeared when they began to be divided among themselves and were scattered all over the world.

Here is the holy book, the Koran. Other than the Koran there is nothing that can be taken as sacred. God did not say to us that we are responsible for anything other than the Koran or that he would hold us accountable for anything but the Koran. The Koran is in Arabic and we can all read it.

Clandestine activity, the use of force, revolutions inspired from abroad, and the exloitation of religion are things which are prohibited and concerning which there can never be any tolerance. They must be put on record and everyone should know about them. These things are prohibited in the jamahiri society; and these others are the things that can tolerated. If you want to follow them, well and good.

When Adam was in paradise he was told that he was free to eat whatever fruit he liked and that he could enjoy life in Paradise. Only one tree must he not go near. He was told: If you do, then you will become a tyrant and a loser. But Satan played on his mind and he disobeyed. He went to the tree and ate its fruit. He was sent to earth and until today we are suffering from the first sin. The cause was this: the fruit was forbidden; and there were other fruits which were not forbidden. But when he ate the forbidden fruit, he paid the price. We also say: These things are forbidden. Anyone who becomes involved in them will get such and such a punishment. We make it crystal clear.

We want to build and we want to advance. We want to overcome underdevelopment and we want to challenge those who challenge us. We want to liberate Palestine. We do not want to be a country which keeps on discovering conspiracies while other countries keep on discovering oil or gold; nor to keep on quarreling among ourselves and to see one person quitting while another person flees compulsory conscription or deserts from the

Army; or those who desert their units or who come from outside as infiltrators. All this while Satan is laughing his head off. Satan is the real enemy. The Israelis and the Americans are laughing and are pleased to see us fight one another.

This absurd situation must come to an end. We should start to become proud that some earnest action has taken place in the heart of the Arab homeland. Libya is the heart, it is the heart of the Arab homeland; you see that on the map. It is the heart of the Arab homeland.

We want to feel that something serious is happening here and that people have begun to move in a proper direction which serves the future, so we can reach the moon in the future, desalinate sea water, wipe out lice, poverty, mosquitoes, flies, and the rest of the plagues. We must wipe out these things through production, and through work and through rising above the trivialities. Someone smuggles money in the tube of (?toothpaste) and someone else smuggles (?jewlery in his pockets) and someone forges (?a document) and someone seeks help from someone in a position of influence; or [words indistinct]. Why did I say: Take your passport and go to the airport and take your flight? Today, it is embarrassing to see people who want to obtain an exit visa. They go to an official to obtain it and the official starts to get bossy and intimidating and at times he even makes you sell your honor. How terrible.

This revolution has not occured to sell one's honor. If so, then it is not a revolution. The revolution is to give people pride and dignity; to make you hold your head up and not humiliate yourself in front of an official or someone who is exploiting you or someone who bribes you or whom you bribe. Without being told by anyone you should do this, like the story of the woman who was stopped from leaving the country. The woman is free. No one is guarding her. Why is she stopped at the airport to be told that she should have a guardian? Her husband or her brother or her father told her she could go. Why do you stop her at the airport and ask her if she has permission to leave alone. Who are you? Are you a guardian or our imam? The era of the imams and the era of the (?mullahs) are past. Any woman who wants to leave can leave. You should let her go. If her father or husband chases after her at the airport to stop her or accord her (?protection), well (?that is different).

The jamahiri society is for both men and women. Who says that one must guard the women? Those who conspire from abroad are not wanted by their womenfolk—these men who were recruited by U.S. intelligence, influenced them, and misled by them. They tricked by it. They came here like rats and they were caught by you. These men are fools. If Libyan women travel abroad they are not going to be approached by U.S. intelligence. Bring us any Libyan women who have conspired against us from abroad or who have been recruited by U.S. intelligence. What is the matter with you, looking down on women and imprisoning them behind bars? All people can congregate at the Green Square. There is no need for bars.

As of tomorrow people's congresses should preferably take place in mosques, God willing, according the decision of the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Conference; especially during Ramadan. Mosques are much more numerous than headquarters of the popular congresses. All people who go to the early evening prayers can meet after the prayers. They should also meet after saying the noon prayers and after they say the afternoon prayers. The only exception are the prayers at sunset, when there should be no meetings during Ramadan. All mosques should be turned into places for people to gather and meet.

The work that has been done and which we would like to be turned into a constitutional action has echoed throughout the world. See the countries which followed us. For instance, Iraq has released an unknown number of political prisoners and also a number of conspirators. And Bangladesh released 8,000. He [not further specified] sent a telegram congratulating me. He even abolished the state of emergency which existed in Bangladesh. And there is Burkina Faso—scores of imprisoned people were pardoned in a decree. And there is Taiwan; even Taiwan released 7,000 and they also abolished capital punishment and replaced it with imprisonment; they heard our call.

The entire world should get rid of capital punishment. Lawyers, intellectuals, and students have all received this call and they have begun to back it. They have started saying: look at Libya. It says that capital punishment is a horrible thing and should be abolished. Let us abolish it. Zimbabwe: Hundreds of political detainees were released, especially those who belong to ZAPU [Zimbabwe African People's Union], the opposition party. Afghanistan: they changed all the laws on capital punishment to imprisonment.

And you have seen in Tunisia; Brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali adopted a decision immediately after you did, releasing thousands of those who had been detained or convicted; and those who were banished have been given back their rights. Korea has permitted its people to go abroad for the first time. Even in Sharjah they released 85 political prisoners. And this is still going on; this is a revolutionary explosion that will have a great echo throughout the world and the document that was issued first of all will be historic. Every Libyan should feel proud. He should not find his country on the blacklist abroad. He should feel proud that there is freedom.

I want all the Arab workers who have gone back home to return to Libya, and all the Arab scientists who have gone home to return to Libya and enjoy full freedom. These people have fled to work in the United States, Germany, Western Europe, and Britain. They have fled

oppression and persecution (?in their countries). They were unable to do anything. Scientific research is prohibited in some Arab countries. One cannot undertake historical research because it is in conflict with the history of this dynasty, or the origin of that family or the origin of this or that king.

Here someone installs himself for life and there someone is an uncrowned king. People are unable to conduct a political debate and even a dialogue is banned or a Friday sermon cannot be delivered. One finds minefields everywhere. They are restricted and unable to do anything as a result of pressures. No one can talk about liberation or about equality, justice, about everyone being equals. No, no equality. The ruling royal family is not like the rest of the people. No. The rest are slaves and they are masters. This is why they fled. People have gone to Latin America, and to North America and Western Europe. Therefore, I extend an invitation to them to come to Libya, the land of freedom. We must stress this. This is the responsibiity of every Libyan citizen, man or woman.

First, you have to be free here and you should hold your head high in the world and be a free person. I am very, very pleased with the high Libyan morale, because the most important thing is that morale should be high and there be no fear anymore. This is the aim of the revolution which we have sparked off and the danger to which we had been exposed. And it is all to bring about this desire: that fear be defeated, and freedom triumph and the will of man triumph over his land and the people establish themselves over their own land and decide whatever they want and no longer fear this or that person.

Let us go forward; the struggle continues.

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers Arabs 'True Liberties'

PM0505085388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 May 88 p 4

[Report on interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Talhah Jibril at Al-'Aziziyah Barracks in Tripoli on 30 April]

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has appealed to all Arabs and Libyans living abroad to return to Libya, noting that there are no restrictions on the exercise of their freedom on Libyan territory. The appeal was made during Col al-Qadhdhafi's interview with a group of Arab journalists at the Al-'Aziziyah barracks in Tripoli in which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT participated. He said that Arabs living outside the Arab homeland because of persecution and exploitation can turn to Libya.

He urged Arab scientists and technicians working abroad to place their capabilities at the service of their nation. It is improper, he said, for any Arab to serve the United States or Britain or to join the spiteful crusade camp which is bent on destroying the Arab nation. He added that Arab experts working in the nuclear energy field in the West are the ones who, in one way or another, made it possible for Israel to have nuclear weapons, which means that Arab efforts are being exploited in the interests of the Israelis. He added that these people should return to their nation and return to Arab land.

He strongly criticized those Arabs working for the BBC and the VOA [Voice of America]. How, he asked, could an Arab broadcast over London radio, and talk about Israel when there is no such thing as Israel, only Palestine?

He continued: Why should an Arab be forced to broadcast imperialist abuse and propaganda in Arabic? What is he getting in return for this? If he is doing it so he can eat and drink, then he can come to Libya and we will provide his food and drink. We should let the British broadcast what they wish to broadcast in their own broken Arabic. They should not be able to find an Arab to work for them because there can be no justification for an Arab who curses his own people and nation. When the British want to call us names they give the job to an Arab who uses his language and eloquence to promote propaganda and hurl abuse at this nation.

He said that VOA, which employs Arab broadcasters, describes the Arab nation as a backward barbaric nation not interested in peace, and says that Israel wants peace. If such a person is doing that for a salary, then let him come here and we will give him such a salary and if he wants food and drink then he can get that in this free land.

He also said: Yunis Bahri, who used to broadcast from the Voice of Germany during World War II, did so to win the Arab nation over to Hitler's side and he at least used to say that the Arabs should protect their territory from the Allies. VOA, Radio Monte Carlo, and the BBC, however, curse the Arab nation. So why should an Arab translate what the Americans and British say and then broadcast it to his nation?

During his interview, attended by an AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT representative, Col al-Qadhdhafi reviewed the conditions which prevailed in Libya before the recent decisions. He said that those who had cooperated with foreign circles in the West had wronged themselves and the fault lay with them, and that those who were liquidated were enemies and allies of Mosad and U.S. intelligence and had been trained by those services to fight the Libyan people. That, he said, explains the liquidations which occurred in Europe's streets. That page, he stressed, has been turned.

He added: On this occasion I appeal to all Arabs abroad who fled from repression, pursuit, prison, and lack of freedom and rights, including the right to self-determination, to return to Libya to exercise all that of which they were deprived and on account of which they were expelled.

He also said: Some Libyans have made inquiries to Arab newspapers about the truth. I want to point out that any Libyan wishing to live abroad is free to do so and he will not

be pressured to come to Libya. There are some Libyans who do not support the revolution and are in favor of a capitalist regime, but have not been recruited by the enemy. If they wish to remain abroad they are free to do so. They are also free to return home if they so wish.

He added that any Libyan who feels he has been wronged or that his home or farm has been taken from him can take his case to the people's court formed by the Libyan people through the people's congresses. If it can be proved that he acquired these properties with his own hard work then they will be returned to him. So, anyone wishing to return to Libya, live here, or go out again, is free to do so and does not have to seek anyone's permission. If he wants to cross the borders he will find no Libyan authority at the border, Al-Qadhdhafi said, and Libyans living abroad can ascertain this fact. Anyone from any group can return to Libya and see for himself and then convey the truth to the others abroad, he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi added that there is no time limit on these decisions and if someone wishes to remain abroad, so be it, and whenever he wishes to return he will be free to do so. Sarcastically, he said that if the Arabs want permanent residence in Europe, so be it, let the Arabs colonize Europe. He added that the recent decisions will assume a constitutional character once approved by the people's congress, so that everyone will rest assured that this is a permanent constitutional measure that cannot be abrogated.

Asked if any of those living abroad has responded to these decisions, Al-Qadhdhafi said: Large groups have returned.

Regarding those who were unjustly jailed, Al-Qadhdhafi said, they can take their cases to the courts and they will be rehabilitated if they were indeed wronged. The public, he said, has been overjoyed at the recent decisions because even those who had plotted and deserved to die were released. People danced in the streets when freedom was confirmed.

Asked about guarantees that this freedom will continue, he said: The people's congresses will formulate the constitutional concept of that and will lay down the conditions under which freedom will be lost and who deserves prison or execution.

He hastened to add: I personally am against the death sentence and against hard labor. He said that the process of legislating the recent decisions will begin tomorrow, Tuesday.

On the issue of opposition, Col al-Qadhdhafi said that there is no opposition in Libya.

On freedom of expression and the formation of political parties, he said that any Libyan citizen can publish a newspaper provided it is not financed from abroad. If a citizen cannot publish a newspaper he can express his views in a signed leaflet in which he is entitled to write anything, even if it includes abuse against Al-Qadhdhafi, or he can write on walls if he has no paper, and once the people have read what he has written the wall writing will then be erased. As for parties, a party is formed for the promotion of a certain program. Anyone can join the people's congresses and submit his program there. If the people are convinced, such a program will then be implemented, but secret work is not allowed. What is important, he said, is that views are expressed publicly.

Al-Qadhdhafi was asked if commitment to the Green Book ideas was necessary. He replied that anyone who talks that way does not know the Green Book.

He asserted that after the recent decision Libya has now become the land of human rights and true liberties. He called for the transfer to Libya of the headquarters of Amnesty International and human rights organizations. These organizations, he said, are now located in the West, where there is no real freedom because Western civilization is based on exploitation. He added that the home secretary in Britain, the headquarters of Amnesty International, has recently announced the construction of the biggest British prison; big enough to absorb thousands of unemployed people who constitute a threat to Britain's security. How can this terribly repressive state be the headquarters of Amnesty International?

He continued: Human rights are what distinguishes man from the animals. One's effort is what matters. An ordinary citizen in the West cannot determine his own fate, and I challenge them to give citizens freedom of self-determination and carry out a referendum to find out if the people really want to fight Nicaragua, Panama, Libya, or the Palestinian people. The answer would be a categorical no. The American people do not wish to fight us, but the ruling, exploiting circles linked to Zionism do and they violate human rights. The U.S. President, for example, is definitely a dictator when he prevents his nationals from visiting Libya or working here, and when he bans U.S. companies from operating in Libya. The same thing applies to Britain. Does that not constitute a violation of human rights? Another example: The population of France is 50 million, but only 10 million participated in the elections; 5 voting for Mitterrand and 5 voting against him. So, did the French people really exercise free self-determination? Elections in Western states are financed by Zionism and leaders there are not elected by the people.

Col al-Qadhdhafi announced that all Arab papers, magazines, publications, and books are allowed in Libyan markets and that if a decision is made linking the broadcasting station to any other Arab broadcasting station, we would have no reservations about it. We fear no threat from the Arab world and I tell them that anyone who has a paper or publication to sell in Libyan markets can do so whether he delivers it by air or on a camel.

Answering a question about foreign reaction to the recent release of foreign detainees, Al-Qadhdhafi said: These people have no ethics. They got their prisoners

back and that was that. The way we see it, if you do someone a favor he returns that favor, but not so in the West. If Western civilization is the civilization of electrons and satellites, then it is not a real civilization. If we observe spiders or ants we see that they do very strange things. A spider's nest, for example, looks as if it was built with an electronic brain. Ants bury their dead and save their energy from season to season, operating like machines, but that does not mean that spiders and ants are civilized. The fact that the United States and Europe manufacture electronic equipment does not mean that they are civilized.

Asked if some people are still in prison, he said that there are a few dozen who had exploited religion in politics or conspired with foreigners. He added: The people will not allow me to set them free because if I did the public would fight them in the streets. So, to save their lives, we have kept them in prison, but we have released all foreigners.

Regarding Libyans residing abroad without Libyan passports and wishing to return home, he said they can contact Libyan embassies abroad and obtain travel documents or passports with which to travel, and they will be given every facility.

He added that those imprisoned in the past were unfair to themselves because it was a self-inflicted imprisonment for plotting. They wronged their own families and brought them into disrepute. They were unfair to us because they turned us into jailers. Al-Qadhdhafi noted that there has been a worldwide response to the recent decisions.

Asked if Libyans living abroad who had engaged in political activity against their country would be permitted to return home, he said that they are free to come and go as they please, and can then express their views in the people's congresses.

Asked if this decision also covers such people as former Revolution Command Council Member 'Umar al-Muhayshi, he replied: Even 'Umar al-Muhayshi. So, if you find him invite him to return and notify him of this and report it in your papers. He will not be questioned about anything. I guarantee that. (At this point one of the people present pointed out that Al-Muhayshi was already in Tripoli)

Al-Qadhdhafi said that he had no statistics showing the number of people who have already returned, and that this meant nothing to him. What is important, he said, is that Libya has demolished prisons and borders and any Arab can enter it without a passport or visa. This is because Libya is the land of the Arabs, should have no gate barriers, and should be a magnetic center for all the Arabs.

At the end of the interview AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's representative asked Col al-Qadhdhafi if it would be possible to make field inquiries and meet with the released prisoners and returnees, and to ask the average people their opinion of the recent decisions. He replied: You are free to do whatever you like. If you see some fault or something wrong during your inquiry, then you must write about it so we can remedy it.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi To Form Government Within 'Coming Week'

JN051038 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 5 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has confirmed that he is intending to declare the formation of his new government within the coming week so as to pass the current political crisis.

The three major coalition parties are facing a problem in the appointment of a new speaker for the Constituent Assembly "parliament".

The National Islamic Front had nominated Ahmad Sulayman who is a famous lawyer, but this proposal was strongly opposed by a great number of members from the Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist Parties on the ground that he had worked as a minister in Numayri's defunct regime.

Al-Mahdi yesterday official informed the National Islamic Front that he would nominate an independent national figure if the Front insisted to nominate Mr Sulayman.

On the other hand Ibrahim 'Ubaydallah, one of the leaders of National Islamic Front disclosed that the Front had earlier nominated Dr Al-Jazuli Daf'allah the prime minister of the transitional government, but the Al-Ummah Party rejected the nomination then the Front chose Mr Sulayman.

Party Leaders Meet 4 May

JN041010 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Khartoum May 4 (SUNA)—Leaders of the Al-Ummah Party and National Islamic Front (NIF) Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Dr Hasan al-Turabi respectively Tuesday held a meeting in continuation of deliberations on the formation of the proposed national government.

Al-Turabi said the meeting which was attended by senior officials of the two parties had discussed issues related to the government formation, the house speaker, and the Council of the State.

A NIF secretary general said he was optimistic that some progress would be made in the way of national accord.

Meanwhile, the Constituent Assembly is expected to meet today Wednesday to tackle the controversial issue of the electing of the speaker.

The NIF nominated lawyer Ahmad Sulayman for the post but the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party have rejected the nomination.

Al-Turabi said the issue of the speaker would not be discussed at today's meeting adding that some southern parties were mediating between the NIF and the Al-Ummah Party to reach acceptable formula.

Commenting on a suggestion for the NIF to accept an additional ministerial portfolio instead of the office of the speaker the NIF leader said the NIF is considering all options and I would not like to close the door before any alternative. He gave no details.

Al-Turabi described the viewpoints between this party and Al-Ummah as identical on the proposed government formation.

He said we are working for overcoming the slight difference for confronting the major issues.

Aldo Ago of the Southern Sudan Political Association said the southern parties mediation efforts between the NIF and Al-Ummah Party focused on the immediate formation of the government and postponement of the issue of the house speaker till after the elapse of the fasting month Ramadan.

Taj al-Din Reportedly Resigns From State Council

JN041054 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4 May (SUNA)—Today, AL-MAYDAN, organ of the Sudanese Communist Party, reports that State Council member 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din resigned from the State Council yesterday to make way for the implementation of a political agreement by reforming state organs to include the National Islamic Front.

Idris al-Banna, Pacifico Lado Lolik, and Mirghani al-Nasri have declared their refusal to resign from the State Council.

Resignation Report Denied

JN041542 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4 May (SUNA)—A statement was issued here today denying press reports that State Council member 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din intends to resign from the Council to resolve the Council's current crisis.

A statement issued by Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din's office said these reports are totally baseless. The statement pointed out there is no crisis and that Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din does not intend to resign from the Council.

'Violent Demonstrations' Erupt in Al-Fashir

JN041210 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4 May (SUNA)—Violent demonstrations erupted in Al-Fashir, capital of Darfur Region, at the beginning of this week. The demonstrators condemned the regional government for its total absence and its inaction in dealing with continuing security problems and securing food necessities.

This was reported today by the independent newspaper AL-SUDANI. It quoted one of the region's deputies as demanding that the central government pay urgent attention to the situation there and choose a competent regional government that can solve the region's problems.

In another development, a deputy told AL-SUDANI that Darfur Al-Ummah deputies have presented a memorandum to the prime minister on the current situation in Darfur. They demanded that the governor be changed in light of the crises in the region.

Kuwait

Government Continues To Deny Iranian Charges

LD0305145588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait Tuesday sent a message to chief executive of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Sharifuddin Pirzada refuting again Iran's allegations that Iraq used a Kuwaiti island in attacking Iranian forces.

Letter to Pirzada was sent by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, who emphasized that Kuwait had not permitted any non-Kuwaiti force to deploy on, or use, its territories, airspace or territorial waters.

Iran made the accusation against Kuwait last month and Kuwait was quick to deny it flatly and told the world community at the time that the allegation could be used by Tehran as a pretext to attack Kuwait.

Shortly afterward, Iran did attack the Kuwaiti Island of Bubiyan and fired a missile on Kuwaiti territories on April 20.

Al-'Usaymi, in his letter to Pirzada, reiterated Kuwait's conviction about Iran's intentions and stressed that the "false and serious" Iranian accusations against Kuwait could herald more attacks on Kuwait.

He added that Iran's actions in the Gulf have run counter to the rules of the OIC and international law.

The Kuwaiti letter also pleaded with the OIC secretary general to continue to search for a peaceful end of the Iran-Iraq war under a settlement that would restore peace and security to the region.

PDRY

YAR Official Ends Visit to Aden 3 May

LD0305191188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for the affairs of Yemeni unity and member of the Permanent Committee in the northern part of the homeland, left Aden this afternoon after a 1-day visit to the southern part.

Shortly before his departure, he told ANA that he delivered a verbal message during his visit to Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, from his Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of General People's Congress.

The message concerned a number of issues within the framework of unionist action and consultations on issues of mutual interest. He said [word indistinct] meetings and consultations with the officials in the southern part on issues related to [word indistinct] of unionist action.

Al-Bid Returns From Sanaa, Discusses Unity Talks

LD0405204788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The brother secretary general made a press statement on his return to Aden in which he explained the important results which were achieved in the Sanaa meeting.

The first of these was an agreement to set up a project for the joint exploitation of gasoline. He said this is the great achievement on which we have been relying and for which we have patiently and perseveringly worked.

He said: We are opening a new window for cooperation and earnest brotherly work, aimed at creating a solid material base for restoring the unity of the Yemeni homeland and making it more secure and meaningful.

He said the true value of our agreement on the joint Yemeni project for gasoline exploitation lies not only in the fact that it strengthens the ties and joint interests of the two parts and helps provide new resources for boosting economic and social development in the two parts.

It also lies in the fact that it silences the advocates of war and nefarious forces which do not wish our people peace and well-being. These forces are making every effort to wreck the march toward Yemeni unity, which should be achieved by peaceful means on a democratic basis that serves the broadest masses of the Yemeni people.

With the fulfillment of this project, we can say we are now proceeding along the correct road. We are preparing for other very important steps, toward unity, now that there is a greater basis of trust between the leaderships of the two parts, without which it is impossible to advance.

In his statement, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid spoke of the resolve and determination to proceed toward further joint economic projects and the coordination of development projects in the two parts and [word indistinct] and positive [word indistinct] to serve the masses of our people and their aims of progress and unity.

We feel that the happy result arrived at today is supported by all honorable citizens who have been extremely concerned about the determination of the Yemeni people's enemies to strain relations between the two parts.

For this reason, I am happy to hail all those nationalists who chose to work for peace and unity and who continued the loyal march for the 26 September and 14 October glorious revolutions.

Even if, for well-known reasons, the forces hostile to the Yemeni people and the Yemeni revolution are bent on bringing about an atmosphere of tension and disagreement, this historic experience has shown us and our people how to choose the road of dialogue and persistent, peaceful work.

This road is the one that allows us to use our material and human resources to protect the national sovereignty of the Yemeni people and to devote ourselves to the process of comprehensive construction and development. It enables our country to overcome its legacy of backwardness and to escape the subordination imposed by unequal economic relations.

Our country suffers from the same problem as other developing countries. The economic order makes them a consumer market for the products of monopolist companies, thus maintaining the weakness of their production structures and the slow rate of their economic growth.

The real struggle we are waging is a struggle for peace, which releases human and material forces and energies for comprehensive development, which makes economic and political liberation and independent national decisionmaking a completely realistic matter.

Our struggle is for unity, which strengthens development potential and politically and economically consolidates the sovereignty of national independence.

We should wage this comprehensive struggle with all the forces available to us—the formidable ammunition of nationalist forces and the energies of the honorable masses of the people—with open minds, strong arms, and a generous, solid will. We should wage the struggle for peaceful construction, unity, and a future that promises hope, honor, and prosperity.

Following on from what we have achieved, we must embark on other steps in the same direction. We are facing an august task of great importance. This task is to reinforce awareness about unity and to propagate the values of national culture which guides man toward free and comprehensive action, progress, and democratic, human rights.

We should work together to inculcate and deepen the nationalist spirit of unity in the new generations. These generations should be correctly educated in the militant and historic values of the Yemeni people, love of the homeland, and sacrifice for its sake, devotion to work for the benefit of the people, and sincere attachment to the principles and aims of the Yemeni people.

We should also work together to ensure that these generations, throughout the Yemeni arena, grow up with knowledge and nationalism. In this respect, we are now discussing the unification of the educational curricula in schools, institutes, and university faculties in the two parts.

This is being done on a scientific and patriotic basis. The aim is to produce generations of men capable of turning the wheel of development ably and efficiently. We want to crystallize the national personality of the Yemeni people and to make a break with the past and its diseases and all that springs from that; namely, a breakup into groups, dispersion, and imposition of morbid backwardness.

At the Sanaa meeting, we also reached agreement on reviving all unity activities and reactivating the unity committees, encouraging them to complete their tasks.

We agreed to reactivate unified bodies like the Supreme Yemeni Council and the Joint Ministerial Committee, and to refer the draft constitution of the unified state to the People's Councils in the two parts for discussion. We agreed to take it to the people and to seek their opinion on it.

Agreement was also reached on taking quick practical steps to remove the barriers that prevent the movement of countrymen between the two parts. We are at present also striving to coordinate the foreign policies of the two parts, to facilitate the exchange of newspapers, magazines and books, and to create greater opportunities for contacts between scholars, writers, journalists, and representatives of vocational and technical sectors.

In other words, we are jointly endeavoring to make a major move to restore the unity of the homeland and the people by fostering links, contacts, joint interests, and cooperation.

We want to create a unified democratic entity that will provide the people with ideal circumstances for successful construction and a life of dignity and freedom as well as material and spiritual prosperity.

Here we affirm, with regard to the important agreements we have reached, that we should proceed to work with all the available energy and effort to overcome the difficulties and obstacles that might impede us here or there, in this or that matter.

We are confident that by sincerely adhering to the interests of the people and the principles and aims of the 26 September and 14 October immortal Yemeni revolutions, we will succeed.

We express happiness at what we have achieved in the interests of our people and our great Yemeni homeland. We express the confidence which the state and party leadership in the southern part of the homeland has in the magnificant future of our people and in the success of joint efforts toward unity.

We express our unlimited readiness to reinforce and expand unity activities to preserve the security and stability of the Yemen and to create material conditions for Yemeni unity, whose day will undoubtedly dawn brightly, gloriously, and majestically.

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Spying Charges 'Completely Unfounded'

LD0505005188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2307 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Riyadh, 4 May (SPA)—Denying what was relayed today by news agencies and radios attributed to IRNA that the Iranian authorities have arrested a Saudi spy who, as IRNA claimed, illegally entered Iran and carried a sum of money in order to spread the Wahhabi creed, a responsible Saudi source told SPA that this is another fabricated lie arranged by Tehran's rulers and that it is completely unfounded.

The source added: "It is not difficult for the Iranian Government, which is tarnished by lies, to hire one of its mercenary lackeys to do whatever it orders or to put out whatever false news."

The source continued: "It is well known that Saudi Arabia, from its founding until the present day, has never followed such cheap ways or dealt with anyone with such measures which are condemned and denounced when followed by others."

He said: "It is pathetic that an official of Iran's Ministry of Information who, according to the news, did not reveal his name, claimed that the so-called spy was planning to spread the Wahabi faith, as there is nothing in Islam called a Wahabi creed. There is only the tolerant faith, the concepts and teachings of which rely on the contents of God's book and the deeds of his faithful messenger and which has been followed by his good followers from the time of the chaliphates until today. This is what Saudi Arabia follows and is committed to; and Saudi Arabia refuses to be attached to any other creed."

The source concluded his statement by saying: "We strongly deny these exposed Iranian claims. We warn the rulers of Tehran against continuing in this manner, which is denounced by the whole Islamic nation, and we intend to confront such poisoned deceptive campaigns with all firmness."

Government Denounces Israeli 'Aggressions'

LD0405231188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its deep concern over, and denunciation of, the open and repeated Israeli aggressions against the southern Lebanese territory.

An official source told this to SPA yesterday [4 May], adding: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while denouncing the fresh Israeli military operations inside Lebanese territory, urged international organizations and all peace-loving states to redouble their efforts to work for a rapid withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, and an end to acts of aggression against the sons of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples alike.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Delegation Holds Unity Talks in Sanaa

Delegation Arrives 3 May

JN031755 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa this evening. He was received upon arrival at Sanaa International Airport by brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress; Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of civilian and military officials.

Talks Begin

JN032034 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpt] Fraternal unity talks between the two parts of the homeland were held at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa this evening. The talks were held under the chairmanship of brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general in the southern part of the homeland.

The talks are a continuation of the Ta'izz unity talks between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland and the efforts to restore Yemeni unity, the strategic objective of the Yemeni revolution.

During the talks, the two sides discussed issues concerning the two part of the homeland—issues related to giving momentum to the unity action and reinforcing steps on the path of restoring the unity of the Yemeni homeland, territory and people.

The two sides also discussed joint coordination between the two parts to achieve the higher interests of the Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

Joint Agreement Signed

JN041955 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 May 88

["Joint agreement" signed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and PDRY YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Sanaa on 4 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The leaderships of both parts of Yemen have faith in Yemeni unity, and they abide by the objectives of the immortal 26 September and 14 October revolutions.

Both leaders are loyal to the Yemeni people's struggle and martyrs for the sake of building a unified independent Yemen. They are proceeding from our Yemeni masses' aspirations for achieving the unity of Yemen—land and people.

The two leaders are aware of the historic responsibility toward our Arab nation on the significance of Yemeni unity as a serious step and a cornerstone on the path of comprehensive Arab unity. It is the wish of both leaders to crown the national efforts to achieve the cherished aim of national unity.

They desire to push unity action to more advanced stages, which would bring unity closer. This is because unity is the fate of our people in both parts of Yemen, and steps should continue to be made in order to restore the unity of the homeland by peaceful and democratic means and to avoid whatever may disturb security, peace, and stability in both parts of the homeland.

The leaderships of both parts of Yemen wish to achieve the full security, stability, development, growth, and strength of the Yemeni homeland and to remove all obstacles to Yemeni unity and all the vestiges of odious colonialism and the defunct imamate.

They also want to ensure the soundness of unity reconstruction in all fields, within the framework of fraternal cooperation and understanding, after all other unity achievments have enriched the unity process, resulting in unity practices on the public and (?official) in accordance with the agreements and statements signed by the leaderships and officials of both parts of Yemen.

Both leaders also want to continue the unity contacts and agreements. In order to accomplish the aformentioned, the leaderships of both parts of Yemen represented by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, agreed at the meeting they held in the capital, Sanaa, from 3 to 4 May 1988 to do the following:

1. Continue the unity steps and the implementation of what has previously been agreed upon between both parts of Yemen in all fields, and reactivate the Higher Yemeni Council, the Joint Ministerial Committee, and the unity committees existing between both parts of Yemen.

2. Enable the Secretariat of the Higher Yemeni Council to quickly accomplish the task entrusted to it by the last Ta'izz meeting, which is to prepare a timetable for the draft constitution of the unity state and to refer it to the People's Councils in both parts of Yemen so it can be put to a public referendum in accordance with the unity agreements between both parts of Yemen. 3. Revive the unified political organization as stipulated in Article 9 of the Tripoli statement in implementation of true intentions and a translation of the unionist steps until the two sides reach a joint concept of the unified political action in accordance with agreements, provided that the committee concludes its work within the shortest possible time.

4. Complete the efforts of the leadership of the two parts of Yemen to contain and deal with the repercussions of the regrettable 13 January 1985 incidents and to cooperate toward consolidating security and stability in the two parts of Yemen through all possible means.

Regarding the two parts' joint investment project, the agreement states:

5. In view of the importance of economic integration between the two parts of the homeland and to develop and diversify the economic activities that exist on the level of the one Yemeni homeland, and after completion of the steps related to the natural wealth joint investment venture, agreement was reached on the following:

a. To establish a joint investment venture between Ma'rib Province and Shabwah in an area of 2,200 square km.

b. A joint topographical committee will be in charge of specifying and marking the area of the joint investment venture on the spot.

c. The military positions of the two parts of Yemen shall be removed from the joint investment area and the two parts will abide by and implement what was included in the minutes of the two chiefs of staff on 19 January 1985.

d. The oil ministers of the two parts of Yemen shall take all the necessary measures to implement the project, including the investment, technical, financial, administrative arrangements and other measures that are necessary for economic investment.

e. This joint venture stresses the desire of the leadership of both parts of Yemen to fully adhere to the unity of our Yemen and the unity of its territory, and their rejection of any partitioning or any border considerations.

Moreover, this agreement under no circumstances means the determination or demarcation of borders between the two parts of Yemen, nor does it mean the entrenchment or recognition of what was inherited by the hateful colonialism and defunct imamate in terms of negative repercussions aimed at deepening division.

6. The leadership of both parts of Yemen are committed to implement what was cited herewith and to surmount all the difficulties that may emerge in the face of implementing this agreement.

This was signed in the capital, Sanaa, on 18 Ramadan 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 4 May 1988.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland.

Citizens' Movement Agreement

JN042041 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 May 88

["Agreement" signed by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and PDRY Prime Minister Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man in Sanaa on 4 May 1988]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Out of the desire of the leaderships in both parts of Yemen to facilitate the movement of citizens between both parts, the following has been agreed:

1. To cancel the existing border posts on either side of the border, and to replace them with combined border posts.

2. To permit citizens to pass through the combined posts using their personal identity cards, and to remove all restrictions.

3. The interior ministers in both parts of Yemen shall take the practical steps to implement what has been mentioned above in a period of not more than 2 months. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 4 May, in a similar report on the agreements, states: "The interior ministers in both parts are to supervise the drawing-up of practical steps to implement the above as soon as possible."]

4. The governments of both parts of Yemen shall find the financing sources, whether local or foreign, for linking the following roads between both parts of Yemen: the 'Atabah-Al-Dali' road, the Al-Bahih-Al-Matalis road, the Nusayrat-Al-Bayda' road, and the Bayhan-Harib road. [Aden reports: "The governments of both parts should look for sources of finance, local or foreign, to establish the following roads between the two parts: Qatab'ah to Al-Dali'ah, Tawr al-Bahah to [word indistinct], Mukayrah to Al-Bayda, and Bayhan to Harib."]

This agreement was signed in Sanaa, the unity state's capital, on 18 Ramadan 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 4 May 1988.

[Signed] 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee in the northern part of the homeland; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and prime minister in the southern part of the homeland.

Al-Bid Departs 4 May

JN041238 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general in the southern part of our homeland, left Sanaa at dawn today. He was seen off at the airport by brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress; Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, vice president, speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly, and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of civilian and military officials.

President on Missiles, Syrian-PLO Ties

NC0405151388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has stressed that the Iraqi victory in the liberation of Al-Faw was the result of locally-made Iraqi technology, particularly with regard to the missiles used by Iraq in its war with Iran.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published here on Friday [6 May], the Iraqi president denied the existence of any foreign elements in the manufacture of Iraqi missiles.

He said: Iraq's missiles have no links with Scud-B missiles. There are absolutely no foreign shares in Iraqi industry.

He added: What Iraqis have achieved with the liberation of Al-Faw is the feeling that the war has become part of their lives. They act with the hope that the war will end at any minute. But they also act with a responsible attitude: This war might, on the one hand, continue; on the other hand, peace is approaching and imminent.

He stressed that the real threat facing the Arab nation in general, and the Gulf states and Iraq in particular, is Iran's aggression.

President Saddam Husayn said that the reconciliatory step taken by the PLO and Syria is a positive one.

He added: We should not look at any relationship with suspicion. We trust the PLO and have confidence in its chairman. This step is a change for the better in confronting whatever harms the Arab nation.

Concluding his interview, the Iraqi president said his country looks at its friends equally, except when one of them gives particular support to noble aims. He added that Iraq looks on Egypt, its people, and its government with much more appreciation than any other country because of the pan-Arab principles in which Iraq believes.

New Missile Not Yet 'Introduced to War Fronts'

JN050934 Baghdad INA in English 0912 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 5, INA—Outstanding successes and sophisticated industries realized by Military Industrialization Board in Iraq at a record time reflected creative abilities of Iraqis in the field of military industries, an Iraqi paper said today.

AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, mentioned, in an editorial published here, Iraqi military industries surpassed all limits, allowed or not allowed in Third World countries, by manufacturing "Al-Husayn" and "Al-'Abbas" missiles.

Referring to effects of "Al-Husayn" Iraqi-made long-range missile, AL-THAWRAH said it drastically changed the course of strategic conflict between Iraq and Iran, turning Tehran and other Iranian cities into war fields.

The paper added the rulers of Iran mistakenly believed that their capital, other cities and vital installations would remain secure from Iraqi fire.

AL-THAWRAH recalled that "Al-'Abbas" long-range recently tested missile "has not been introduced to war fronts yet."

AL-THAWRAH stressed when great accomplishments in the field of military industrialization coincided with the landslide victories scored by Iraqi forces in Al-Faw and with back-breaking blows dealt by Iraqi Air Force to Iran's war and economic manistays, "one could say that what has been achieved by military industrialization personnel is a consecration of the state of all-round progress being made by Iraq at war front and domestic front."

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,167

JN041805 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1707 GMT 4 May 88

[Communique No 3,167 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The activities of our units for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our Air Force flew 69 combat missions to strike at enemy units on the battlefields and to implement the missions referred to in Communique No 3,166 issued this afternoon.

Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base except for one plane, which fell in enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for safeguarding the life of its pilot.

2. Our helicopter gunships today flew 58 combat missions. They inflicted further losses on the aggressors and then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy.

—Eight of the scoundrels were killed.

—One tanker was destroyed.

—Two ammunition dumps were blown up.

—Two shovels were set ablaze and destroyed.

—Two large vehicles and three infantry positions were destroyed.

4. Four infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces. Two of the scoundrels were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One enemy soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra and one tubular launcher was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector, two enemy boats and one tubular launcher were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up

7. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

8. The criminal Iranian regime used long-range artillery to shell residential districts in Abu al-Khasib last night. It also shelled residential districts in the village of Darband-i Khan today.

The enemy shelling of residential areas injured civilians and damaged property. Thus, the criminal Iranian regime affirms its violation of one of the bases according to which we halted the bombardment of Iranian cities. This also confirms this regime's insistence on deliberately reigniting the war of the cities. This regime must at the appropriate time face the grave consequences of these acts.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 May 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN051108 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 5 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To deprive the Iranian regime of its oil supplies, whose revenues are used for its aggressive purposes, our heroic Air Force this morning launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

After dealing it an accurate, effective blow, all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 5 May 1988

IDF Operation in Lebanon Ends; Forces Return

Dozens of 'Terrorists' Killed

TA0405151988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Within the framework of the operation in southern Lebanon, an IDF unit raided the village of Maydun, killing dozens of terrorists. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that no civilians reside in the village. It is a fortified Hizballah barracks from where squads have left to attack the IDF and other targets in the security strip.

The decision to raid the village was made because of its importance and strategic location. Maydun overlooks Marj 'Uyun, Qiryat Shemona, and Metulla. Our correspondent reports that many artillery pieces and combat helicopters were activated in the battle and that the fighting, waged from house to house, was difficult.

Maydun Combat Detailed

TA0405165388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpts] At the break of dawn a paratrooper unit raided the village of Maydun. The troops began moving in the direction of the outskirts of the village in a bid to prevent the arrival of reinforcements and to stop terrorists fleeing from the barracks. At this stage our forces encountered an eight-member terrorist squad. IDF and South Lebanese Army artillery batteries began shelling the village before its entry. Hundreds of shells were fired and assault helicopters were deployed. [passage omitted]

Since the village was deserted by its civilian inhabitants approximately 1 year ago, Hizballah has converted it into a full-fledged fortified barracks, complete with antitank trenches, bunkers, fortified firing positions, and antitank and anti-aircraft weapons. The decision was made to raid this target because of its significance and influence.

The village is terraced and has between 70 and 80 one- and two-story buildings. Since the village became a Hizballah stronghold in this sector, the men leaving on missions from it carried out operations aimed at undermining the effectiveness of that part of the security zone. They tried to cross the defense fence. The terrorists also stayed in the uninhabited areas surrounding the village. [passage omitted]

The village was the site of Katyusha rocket launchings, and terrorists that came from other areas received assistance in Maydun. The soldiers were instructed to clear the area slowly and scrupulously. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron supervised the fighting from the communications post in the rearguard command headquarters. [passage omitted]

The terrorists inside the village fought back and resisted the house-to-house fighting. Furthermore, a number of Hizballah artillery pieces north of the village, in the vicinity of Mashgharah, opened fire on the village. Military sources praised the high level of planning and execution demonstrated by the paratroopers who raided the village, noting that they carried out their mission professionally. The entry into the village was carried out in secret. Our forces were not discovered before their first encounter just outside the village. The terrorists did not flee the village, were not prepared for the offensive, and maintained routine activity in the observation posts of the fortified village.

This is part of the operation that began 2 days ago. Its first part, which was conducted in the eastern sector, was aimed at the civilian population and those who assist the terrorists. Its second phase was directed against the terrorist objectives themselves. This is a two-pronged message regarding the IDF policy in southern Lebanon.

SLA Force Evacuates Maydun

TA0505133488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] force which was left in Maydun after IDF soldiers pulled out last night evacuated the village at noon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that SLA soldiers continued to carry out searches and blow up houses. The SLA soldiers recognized a terrorist vehicle travelling toward Maydun this morning. An SLA tank fired at the vehicle and killed the terrorists inside.

IDF Casualties Reported

TA0405170888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In the IDF raid in southern Lebanon, 3 of our soldiers were killed and 17 were injured. The IDF units that operated in southern Lebanon have completed their missions and are currently on their way to their bases, 2 days after the beginning of the operation. The above was reported by our correspondent Roni Daniyel.

Katyushas Fired at Security Zone

TA0505102188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Three Katyushas were fired at the security zone in southern Lebanon early this morning. UN personnel told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the Katyushas landed east of Marj 'Uyun, in the area controlled by the Norwegian UNIFIL force. Nobody was hurt. The IDF has no information on the firing of these Katyushas. Our

correspondent adds that the terrorists have not yet returned to the village of Maydun where a battle was waged with Hizballah yesterday.

IDF Officer on Maydun Operation

TA0505130188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 May 88

[Report by correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The dozens of Hizballah fighters who were in Maydun yesterday did not have much choice but to fight for their lives. This was stated by a senior officer who participated in the battle yesterday.

At the beginning of the shelling they tried to escape from the village, but discovered that all the exits were blocked. Except for the initial clash in which an IDF officer was killed, the paratroopers sustained no casualties in the battle on the fortified lines in Maydun.

Fighting there could even be defined as a light battle, the officer said. The operation lasted 3 hours only because of the extra caution exercised by the forces. Most of the IDF casualties, the senior officer emphasized, resulted from mortar and artillery fire by terrorists into Maydun from outside the area. Several of the terrorists themselves were killed by this fire.

The officer explained that the IDF had strict restrictions with regard to silencing the sources of firing since the order was to prevent harm to civilians in villages such as Yuhmur and Suhmur, and to not shoot near the Syrian Army's positions. We hit the sources of firing, the officer said, only when the gun itself was located. The Hizballah organization, which acts according to an Iranian doctrine, has no problem depicting a battle in which 50 of its people were killed as a story of heroic victory, the senior officer summed up.

Yesterday the IDF soldiers distributed leaflets declaring the following: To the regional residents: There were no civilians in Maydun. Terrorists took over the village and turned it into a Hizballah position. They harmed innocent people. We will not allow foreigners who come from afar to mar the calm in the area. Signing the leaflet was the commander of IDF forces in the north. It is hoped in the IDF that the wording of this leaflet, combined with the smoking remnants of the village, will indeed drive the message home to the villagers north of the security zone.

Peled: Operation 'Successful'

TA0405193488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Major General Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, said today after the IDF operation in southern Lebanon, that it was successful and achieved its goals. He told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that more than 40 terrorists were killed, and added that more bodies can be found under the debris. He said that anyone who wishes to attain security must initiate operations and pay the price.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 4 May carries an interview with Gen Peled in southern Lebanon, in which he says: "We had here a terrorist, or Hizballah, center that presented two threats. One threat was to the civilians living in the security strip. You will recall that a week ago, innocent residents of this area were expelled by the terrorists. The second threat is to some South Lebanese Army [SLA] outposts. It also threatened to cut off the Christian town of Jazzin which is very important for the inhabitants of the security strip and the SLA. It was necessary to nip that threat in the bud, not to wait for it to set deeper roots. This was already a fortified target. That raised the need to clean this nook of terrorists. The paratroopers did this. This was real combat, as you will hear from the commanders and the fighters. They did their job exceptionally well, showing determination and steadfastness. Naturally, such fighting exacts a price, too. There have been casualties."]

Peled Says Objectives Achieved

TA0405200988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 4 May 88

[Interview with Major General Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, by Alon Ben-David "this evening;" place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-David] Gen Peled, has the IDF accomplished everything it set out to achieve in this operation?

[Peled] We had several goals to meet in our two operations: the combing operation and the attack on the terrorist objective in Maydun. They were achieved even though we paid a price. Our goals in the first stage, namely the combing operation, were to deliver a message to the local population that we would not accept collaboration with terrorists operating against Israel; to search and locate weapons caches and possibly even terrorists; and to carry out a sweeping IDF operation to let everyone who needs to know that if we have to, and decide accordingly, we will deploy large forces simultaneously in many places.

Regarding the raid on Maydun, we set the goal of hitting as many terrorists as possible and destroying the infrastructure that was beginning to be built there. We achieved these goals, again, at a heavy cost. But all in all, more than 40 terrorists were killed and the main terrorist infrastructure in Maydun was destroyed. The objective was really met.

[Ben-David] What type of fighting took place in Maydun?

[Peled] In the village of Maydun combat could be classified as fighting against a fortified target. There were trenches, tunnels, bunkers, machineguns, and dugouts.

Thus, the fighting was characterized as fighting against a fortified target. We engaged in short-range combat conducted from house to house and from bunker to bunker. There were hand grenade clashes. It was tough fighting.

[Ben-David] Will the IDF continue to operate as it did over the past 3 days?

[Peled] The IDF will continue to operate in whatever way it decides is necessary. Today the decision was on this type of activity, 2 days ago our decision was different, and tomorrow we will decide in accordance with the intelligence, the targets, and the situation in the field. We must not adhere to only one type of activity.

Rabin Explains Hizballah Raid

TA0505060388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 May 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator David Grossman and Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Good morning, Mr Yitzhaq Rabin. The IDF forces returned home, and it is now time to sum up the operation. There were 3 dead and 17 wounded—a very high price. What effect will this operation have on northern border security?

[Rabin] At the beginning of my remarks allow me to extend my condolences to the Mizrahi, Dvir, and Burstein families on the loss of their dear ones, and to wish the wounded a quick recovery. Let me also express my deep appreciation for the fighting ability of the commanders and soldiers who were active over the past 48 hours in the security zone and north of it.

The two parts of this comprehensive operation—the action that took place in the easternmost sector of the security zone and a little north of it, as well as the action against the Hizballah in Maydun—are part of the overall policy determined by the government in January 1985 and which has been carried out by the IDF for about 3 years now, the goal of which is to end massive military involvement in Lebanon but simultaneously to guarantee peace for the Galilee. Activity cannot be defensive only. It has to be a combination of defense and occasional activity against those terrorist bases which act against us, endangering the welfare of the settlements and residents of northern Israel.

The goal of this operation was to clear the eastern sector of the security zone through searches—the security zone strip is broadest in this sector—and to prevent the creation of a situation on the eastern sector, as was the case in Maydun. In other words, to prevent the establishment of terror bases near the security zone. There is nothing graver than allowing terror elements that are active against us and against the security zone, against IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces in the security zone, to deploy freely 1 or 3 km away from the security zone, to feel free and to use maximum force against targets in Israel and in the security zone.

[Barne'a] Mr Rabin, the infiltrations into Israel's territory over the last few months or weeks were all carried out by Palestinian organizations. We have not heard whether Palestinian organizational bases were hit during this operation.

[Rabin] You are right. The activity by the pro-'Arafat or pro-Syrian Palestinian terror elements is indeed usually against targets in Israel. Still, they know they cannot stay in or near the security zone, due to our activity. As a result, they usually come from further north. When we talk about the western sector we mean from the Sidon area, and when we talk about the eastern sector, we mean from the northern parts of the Al-Biqa' region subject to Syrian control. Still, they cannot perpetrate their terrorist acts without the help of elements in the security zone and in the area north and adjacent to it.

Among Lebanese elements, the Hizballah organization, especially since January 1988 but also previously, has cooperated most with 'Arafat's PLO. Palestinian terrorism receives aid, as I have said. As for the Hizballah, there have also been cases of joint activity by them and Palestinian terrorists. The Hizballah is extending a great deal of help as far as weapons are concerned, including Katyushas, as well as helping squads to infiltrate and reach our border with the aim of striking at targets in Israel.

[Barne'a] Still, I do not recall attempts by Hizballah to infiltrate Israel. Aren't you afraid that in the wake of this operation this organization will try to commit terrorist acts inside Israel as well, as an act of revenge?

[Rabin] Hizballah squads have indeed not penetrated our territory. They only helped other squads to do so. Still, there were cases of Katyushas being fired at Israeli targets by Hizballah people together with Palestinian terror elements. If we want peace for the Galilee, if we want to maintain the security zone, I think we have no choice but to prevent the creation of terrorist bases inside, to the north, and adjacent to the security zone.

[Barne'a] Is the State of Israel interested in helping the Amal Movement in southern Lebanon? Lately there have been fierce battles between Amal and the Hizballah, and the destruction of this infrastructure in Maydun could help the Amal Movement in southern Lebanon quite a bit.

[Rabin] Look, Amal's activity against the Hizballah was in a different sector. In the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region, in the area of Maydun, Amal is weak and almost nonexistent. Our activity was carried out solely for security reasons, due to our desire to guarantee normal life for the settlements and residents of northern Israel. The operation was planned to last 48 hours and consisted of two parts. The first part took place in the eastern sector; the

second destroyed the base, not the infrastructure. The aim was to strike at Hizballah people and to prevent the possibility of the creation or restoration of a Hizballah or another terrorist base near the security zone.

[Grossman] Mr Rabin, a report in HA'ARETZ this morning cites senior Alignment members who level criticism at you, saying you alone decided on the operation, not sharing this serious decision with Mr Shamir and Mr Peres. Is this true?

[Rabin] As defense minister I am responsible for security policy regarding Lebanon as well as other fronts. So there is no question about who gave the order. I gave the order. As for sharing or not sharing, I am not prepared to discuss this.

[Grossman] The claim by those Alignment members cited in that report is that in your decision to strike at the Hizballah you ran the danger of confronting the Syrians. How could you be sure that the Syrians would not be dragged or perhaps drag us into a confrontation?

[Rabin] Look, I believe we all know the limits of the possible and the dangerous, the dangerous being a confrontation with the Syrians. The operation was not planned to bring about a confrontation with the Syrians. The Syrians understood the rules of the game and did not react. Any contact with Syrian forces was therefore unnecessary.

[Grossman] The Hizballah kidnapped two of our soldiers a few years ago. Did the IDF plan to capture Hizballah people, for instance, to use them in prisoner exchange negotiations?

[Rabin] As you know, we have no prisoners from this operation. We, or rather, we and the SLA, hold Hizballah people.

[Grossman] Are there any contacts for the exchange of prisoners?

[Rabin] At this stage the Hizballah has shown no interest in forming contacts with us to bring about the hostages' release. Our activity has aimed at getting them home, and will continue to do so.

[Grossman] One last question, Mr Rabin. Last week you spoke of a calm starting to prevail in the territories, of the residents' weariness of the intifadha [uprising in Arabic], while daily we hear of additional dead there.

[Rabin] Look, I distinguish between a general trend and the possibility that an eruption may occur here or there on a certain day. We definitely want to reduce the death toll, but at the same time the IDF will react forcefully and firmly in all violent incidents, within the limits of the law. When the lives of IDF soldiers are endangered, they are allowed to use their weapons according to instructions.

Shomron Comments on Operation

TA0405205288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1818 GMT 4 May 88

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky at the chief of staff's office—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, have all the IDF troops who participated in the operation returned to Israel by now?

[Shomron] The units that participated in the operation have returned to their base. Let me take this opportunity to express my sympathies to the families that lost their dear ones. This operation cost us three lives: two officers and a sergeant. Seventeen others were injured, most of them slightly. I wish them all a quick recovery.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, could you explain to us why it was decided to carry out this raid when in retrospect it transpires that we encountered no terrorists at all in the eastern sector, while in the Mashgharah and Maydun sector there was only one stronghold manned by Hizballah terrorists. It seems that this was the first time that the IDF actually clashed so openly with the Hizballah, and the encounter was a tough one.

[Shomron] First of all, the security zone is a very important component of our defense policy and the protection we provide to the northern settlements. A security strip in which terrorists can stay, receive aid, and gather intelligence would not serve the purposes originally set for it. That is why the operation on the eastern sector was meant first of all to guarantee that the security strip is free of terrorist collaborators and to make sure that the area is clear. On the other hand, the operation on the more western front, namely in the area of Maydun which lies just outside the security strip, was aimed against terrorists who use that area as their take-off points for operations against us, against the IDF and also against the South Lebanese Army. We attack the terrorists wherever they are because it is only a question of time before they actually launch an attack against us, it is their own decision. The moment we are faced with a threat from terrorists, we take action in various ways.

[Shlonsky] Was the IDF surprised by the fierce opposition shown by the Hizballah men in the village of Maydun?

[Shomron] It was not surprised. It is true that they really fought back, although some of them fled, too. The operation was conducted in ways aimed at avoiding casualties on our side to the extent that this was possible. As you know, more than 40 terrorists were killed in that village, which is fortified with bunkers and trenches, thereby providing rather good conditions for combat to be waged inside it. Can you imagine what would have happened if 10 or 15 such squads of fighters from there had crossed the security strip and penetrated into Israel?

[Shlonsky] But these squads can ultimately get to Israel from another village, from a different outpost.

[Shomron] Yes, but these 40 men will not come from any other outpost any more. At the same time, the deterrence regarding other places will, no doubt, have a future effect as well.

[Shlonsky] Is there no danger that it might turn the Hizballah into a real enemy of ours who now want to infiltrate our borders?

[Shomron] I do not believe that what had to date stopped Hizballah from doing that was that it did not regard us as its enemy. It did, and did its best. This is the situation so far.

[Shlonsky] What about the eastern sector? Does the fact that the IDF entered that area and then pulled out not return the situation to what it was previously? Will we again see terrorist squads there who enjoy cooperation from accomplices in the villages?

[Shomron] I presume that in the villages where we visited and explained to the locals the risks they are assuming by providing such cooperation we have prevented this, or at least some potential acts of complicity were thereby aborted.

[Shlonsky] The operation in both these fronts was carried out in very close proximity to the Syrian lines. Was there no danger of friction, deterioration, or perhaps escalation to the point of a collision with the Syrian units deployed in those fronts?

[Shomron] There was, and we took all the measures to make it reasonably safe that there would be no Syrian involvement.

[Shlonsky] Have the Syrians gotten the message?

[Shomron] I believe they have. It is a fact that.... [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Shlonsky] Was there no danger during today's battle in Maydun that Syrian units deployed in nearby villages, such as 'Ayn al-Tinah, or Mashgharah might get involved?

[Shomron] The closest Syrian unit can be found in Mashgharah. Indeed, when we activated our artillery, we considered every shell or weapon that fired very carefully and thought about its precise target in a bid to avoid a clash with the Syrians.

[Shlonsky] Today it is approximately 3 years since the withdrawal from Lebanon. This has been the IDF's largest operation in southern Lebanon. Does this operation indicate a policy change signifying that the IDF will act in that area, inside and outside the security strip, more frequently and with larger units?

[Shomron] When the decision was made to pull out of Lebanon and take up positions in a security strip as part of the various methods to guarantee security for the northern settlements, it was obvious that we would enter the security strip and act even north of it as warranted and as deemed necessary. Recently there was an increase in attempts to penetrate Israel for the sake of carrying out terrorist attacks. I believe our operation was warranted.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, thank you very much.

Uri Lubrani on Lebanon, Syria, IDF Policy

TA0405210488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1845 GMT 4 May 88

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Yoram Ronen on the weekly "Moqed" program—live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Uri Lubrani, it seems to me that this is one of the first occasions in which the IDF has encountered a new enemy, Hizballah, in active combat. Do you see this clash as an escalation of the situation?

[Lubrani] First of all, this is not a new enemy. We have been contending with Hizballah for some time.

[Ronen] But not on such a scale.

[Lubrani] That is true, but this is because we have thus far refrained from entering into areas where Hizballah operated uninterruptedly. But Hizballah is an enemy and has declared clearly and unambiguously that its goal is not just to reach the security strip, but to go beyond it. There is no doubt that Hizballah presents one of the central threats north of the security strip with which we must deal. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Uri Lubrani, do you share the view that it is impossible to guarantee complete calm, or even relative calm, even after the massive IDF operation?

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that this operation was meant first of all to clear terrorist hide-outs, whether they belong to Hizballah or to other organizations. That makes no difference. In the case of Maydun they definitely belonged to Hizballah. At the same time, another goal of this operation was to issue a warning. There is no doubt in my mind that other villages will see what remains of Maydun after the IDF and South Lebanese Army have left. They will understand that such a fate may also befall them if they continue to play the role of a military sanctuary serving elements operating against Israel and the security strip. In this respect it was not only a clean-up operation, but also, literally, a warning signal. I think this is right. I am not a military man, but I know that the local inhabitants of the security zone are looking forward to seeing the hide-outs used by people who operate against them purged and a warning delivered. This was one purpose of the operation. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Uri Lubrani, you maintain regular contacts with the population in southern Lebanon. How do you view the behavior of a south Lebanese villager who encounters armed terrorists who threaten his life? How can you expect him not to capitulate to the terrorists' threats? How can you ask him to abstain from cooperating?

[Lubrani] In this regard, we can cite examples of villages or other groups in southern Lebanon beyond the security zone which comprehend that if they encourage activity from their territory against Israel, they will suffer. This being the case, they do everything in their power—and this, by nature, is limited—to prevent operations against Israel from being launched from their places. We know this for a fact.

The Syrians have been mentioned. It is true that in the area under their control the Syrians can force the populace to obey them rather than do as they please. But we are talking about a large area with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants and dozens of villages located around the security strip. The area is not homogenous or uniform. Many villages know how to deal with the terrorists who try to cross their territory. There is a wide range of things that happen in the field, part of which are aimed at preventing anti-Israeli activity. If, God forbid, all the villages were imbued with the motivation, or subjected to pressure to operate against us, our situation would be far worse. [passage omitted]

Let me first of all point out that it is not as if Syria can do as it pleases in Lebanon. If that were the case, the Syrians would undoubtedly have forced upon the Lebanese the kind of political arrangement they believe should be imposed on Lebanon. Yet they failed in this. They were sucked back into Lebanon. A Syrian division is deployed in Beirut, so that even if in the eastern sector the Syrians are in control, their hold over the western sector is far, far weaker. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Let me ask you if you see any connection between the unrest in the territories and the escalation in southern Lebanon.

[Lubrani] In my mind, there is no doubt that the Palestinians are making efforts to synchronize their activity from inside Lebanon with what is happening in the territories. This is part of the Palestinian effort to orchestrate things in a way that would present us with problems from different directions. The squad that came from Egypt and hit the bus [near Dimona] also falls within the category of this Palestinian effort. I do not, however, think that Hizballah can be grouped in this because I do not believe Hizballah is connected to this effort, nor does it operate according to any instructions from the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Although the latest operation cannot really compare with the Litani Operation, or even the Peace for the Galilee Operation, it was nevertheless a sweeping operation. Do you believe further such operations will be necessary in the foreseeable future?

[Lubrani] I would like to say the following not being an army man: I am convinced the safety and well-being of the northern settlements cannot be guaranteed by the old methods that worked before the establishment of the state. If we are forced to tackle the events from the north, which seem to be snowballing, we will have to resort to all types of activity, including operations of this sort. It is inconceivable that the system in charge of security for the northern settlements will not always be prepared. It must be prepared, whenever necessary, to move northward to clear the area of mushrooming terrorist hideouts. This is a situation that will prevail for as long as we have no partner in Lebanon with whom we can conduct a dialogue, reach settlements, and who would do this job for us. [passage omitted]

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Lebanon, Territories

TA0405172588 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 May 88

[Address by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset on 4 May—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] One would have thought that it was Israel, or the Israeli Government, that initiated the violence in the territories or terrorism from Lebanon. This seems to imply that Israel is the cause of violence. These allegations are utterly unfounded. There is no country in the world that desires an end to violent acts more than Israel. No government is as anxious as our government to bring an end to the violent activity in all its manifestations and stem it from all directions. [passage omitted]

The temporary IDF activity in the security zone and its fringes is meant to be a limited operation. Its purpose is to make sure that the eastern sector of the security zone will indeed serve as a security buffer and that its inhabitants will not aid the PLO terrorist organizations, or allow these terrorist organizations to use this area in carrying out attacks against Israel. One other goal of this operation is to end the activity of the bases of the PLO and Hizballah organizations either inside the strip or near it.

The operation was limited in time and scope.

No incidents that would qualify as military clashes occurred yesterday. This morning, in a certain area, fighting began between our forces and members of one of the organizations. I hope it will end soon.

This is the purpose of this operation. It will not last long, and I am convinced that at the latest, within 48 hours we will be able to bring about an end to that operation and return our forces to their bases.

Rabin Excluded Shamir, Peres in Lebanon Decision
TA0505094688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 May 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Senior Alignment ministers yesterday criticized Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for not informing his fellow ministers, including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, of the decision on the operation in Lebanon and the confrontation with Hizballah in the village of Maydun, a battle that risked a clash with the Syrian Army stationed a very short distance away. Minister 'Ezer Weizman complained to Shim'on Peres about Rabin's behavior.

The Inner Cabinet yesterday heard a report on the Lebanon operation from Rabin and high-ranking IDF officers. [passage omitted]

'Unequivocal Denial' Issued on Al-Wazir Killing
TA0505114788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 May 88 p 3

[Report by 'Amos Ben-Vered]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Speaking in the Knesset yesterday, Deputy Minister Roni Milo issued an unequivocal denial concerning the Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] affair. He said: "The Israeli Government was not and is not behind the operation that caused the elimination of Abu Jihad."

Milo was answering parliamentary queries related to the leaks on this matter and to 'Ezer Weizman's remarks that had it been up to him he would have decided against the operation. "Mr Weizman's fate will be determined by the voters in future elections and not here and now in the Knesset," said Milo.

Milo further said that ever since limitations were imposed on media coverage in the territories there have been fewer riots and actions against the IDF.

Shamir Adviser on Need To Monitor Saudi Missiles
TA0405180088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Israel and the United States together must keep a watchful eye on Saudi Arabia following its acquisition of intermediate-range missiles from China. This, according to Dr Alexander Bly, an expert on Saudi Arabia, who currently serves as the prime minister's deputy adviser on Arab affairs. Speaking this afternoon at the Hebrew University, Dr Bly said the missiles represent a potential threat to many countries, including the possibility of chemical warfare. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Dr Bly was one of the speakers at a session that dealt with the Chinese-Saudi deal, which became public in March. Afterwards, he said it is clear that the Saudis have more on their minds than simply defending themselves against a possible attack from Iran.

[Bly] The range of these missiles is 3,500 km, which is indeed very far from Iran. It actually reaches the Volga in the Soviet Union and southern Turkey and even some places in southern Europe. So I think that all these areas should be concerned with the existence of these missiles in the Saudi hands.

[Ze'ev] You mentioned in your talk here that in fact the United States should get involved, with Israel, in terms of considering the possibilities, considering the dangers involved here.

[Bly] Well, I think that this is a new phase in the arms race in the Middle East. However, we have, or we should not blow it out of proportion. That is, this is something that the usage of is very remote and I cannot see it being effective or operative at this point.

[Ze'ev] And because the danger is not an immediate one, Israel should not take military action against missiles for now?

[Bly] Well, I think that Saudi Arabia should be aware that there are some red lines that Israel won't tolerate. I believe that at this point they haven't crossed those lines. However, that possibility still exists.

[Ze'ev] Dr Bly pointed out that Israel now faces a missile threat from three countries in the region: Syria and Iraq, in addition to Saudi Arabia. And he said the missiles are only one way in which the Saudis have bolstered their armed forces. They have also acquired F-15C fighter planes, the AWACS systems, and, recently, Tornado planes from Britain. [end recording]

Peres 'Attacks' Opponents of Tabah Compromise
TA0405183388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1630 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening attacked the opponents of a compromise on Tabah:

[Begin Peres recording] This morning we decided to suggest to the Egyptians that together we request more time for compromise deliberations. I heard this morning such wailing and moaning over the perils to Tabah. I must tell you that this made me raise an eyebrow. The very people who gave up all of the Sinai, who wiped Yamit off the map together with 16 settlements and 2 airfields are now raising such a hullabaloo over Tabah. Is this the alpha and omega of everything? It is only a minute fraction of all the Sinai! Besides, it was not I who signed the [withdrawal] accord, but that does not matter. It is immaterial who signed in the name of Israel. Every country must honor its agreements. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 4 May carries a report on the Likud ministers' meeting on 4 May, adding that during their discussion of Tabah today, "the prime minister said that he believes the Egyptians would accept Israel's suggestion of resolving the matter through compromise."]

CSSR Grants Visas for Local Tour Groups

TA0505101888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 May 88 p 6

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—Natour, the country's largest conglomerate of tour operators and travel agencies, has received exclusive authorization from the Czech Government to bring Israeli group tours to Czechoslovakia, Me'ir Kaspi, Natour's general-manager told a news conference here yesterday.

He said that eight months ago, the Czechs had indicated that they would be willing to gradually increase the number of approvals for visa applications by Israeli passport holders. Kaspi subsequently went to Prague to meet with government officials and returned with a letter of authorization, naming Natour as the exclusive organizer of Israeli group tours to the country.

In his talks with Czech officials, Kaspi raised the problem of the long delays before visas were granted. He was assured that the waiting time would be shortened from one-and-a-half months to seven to 10 days. This assurance was honoured with respect to the first of the Israeli groups, scheduled to leave for Czechoslovakia on June 16. [passage omitted]

Goren on Meetings With Territories' Inhabitants

TA0405182788 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 May 88

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] You have recently held a series of meetings with inhabitants of the territories.

[Goren] Certainly. We have always been in the habit of maintaining a dialogue with all the circles of the population. We meet regularly, and even today I held a meeting with personalities representing various sectors of the population. I do not deny this.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us what you talked about, what were the topics you discussed?

[Goren] Certainly. We have noticed that in all our meetings the majority of the locals complain about their suffering. There are curfews, searches, and detentions. There is very little economic activity. There are problems in education. And if it were up to them perhaps everything would have come to an end. They come to us to lay down their troubles, including health, exports, difficulties on the bridges. The population encounters hardships. I explained to them that as long as there is no quiet, as long as the disturbances continue, we will not be able to permit the systems to function normally once again. This is because we will not be able to tolerate a situation in which the roads are closed and IDF units are attacked with rocks. This state of affairs must end.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Update on 4 May Disturbances

TA0405173688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] National construction day, as today was called in pamphlet No 15, was marked by local disturbances in the territories. Until the early afternoon hours the disturbances were primarily manifested in stone throwing, tire burning, and roadblocks. There was a case of arson this morning in Hebron when a bus transporting laborers was set on fire. This afternoon, a young woman was injured in the market in Nabulus after trying to throw a knife at an IDF soldier. The latter fired a rubber bullet, injuring her in the head. She was evacuated to Al-Rafidiyah Hospital in town.

This afternoon the intensity of the unrest increased. The main focus of disturbances was the Khan Yunus refugee camp where a large rally was held. In the course of the dispersal the IDF soldiers were forced to open fire at the instigators. This shooting injured two rioters. The IDF used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse riots in the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps as well.

In the village of Silwad in the Ramallah District, an IDF patrol was attacked by rocks and bottles. The soldiers were forced to use firearms, injuring two rioters.

An almost complete commercial strike was observed since this morning in the territories. There was scant traffic along the main highways.

Nevertheless, according to the data we collected today, it seems that many laborers left for work in Israel both from Judaea and Samaria, and from Gaza.

1 Killed in Al-Shati' Camp

TA0505061488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip following yesterday's incidents. Our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv reports:

[Begin recording] Many Gaza Strip laborers left for work in Israel this morning. A curfew was imposed on the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps in the wake of yesterday's incidents. A 16-year-old boy and a 20-year-old youth were killed yesterday by IDF soldiers' bullets at the Jabalyah refugee camp following a series of grave disturbances. A violent riot took place there, during which residents of this camp threw stones and bricks at soldiers who came to disperse the riot. Shots were then fired, killing the two and wounding another six youths, five of them slightly. The dead and wounded were transferred to Al-Shifa' and Al-Ahali Hospitals in Gaza. The bodies were taken from the hospitals by relatives, who quickly buried them. The IDF is investigating the incident.

The body of a resident of the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza was transferred to the forensic institute to determine the cause of death. Arab sources claim he died of gas fired by soldiers. The IDF is looking into the cause of his death, not excluding the possibility of a heart attack. [end recording]

W. Bank Business Closed 3 Days

TA0505112688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm, and the Civilian Administration has closed all businesses in several towns in Judaea and Samaria for 3 days. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was imposed on the camp to enable the IDF to reconstruct a fence that would keep youngsters from throwing stones onto the main road. Closing the businesses was in reaction to yesterday's participation in a general strike by shopkeepers in these towns, including Nabulus and Tulkarm. Arab inhabitants said that in addition to this step the administration is preventing travel from region to region and has banned the import of goods to these towns.

2 Killed in Jabalyah Riots

TA0405193888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Two youths from the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip were killed by IDF gunfire this evening. Our correspondent Moti Amir was told that there were disturbances in that camp this afternoon. The IDF tried to disperse the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets, but once the soldiers' lives were endangered, they shot at the instigators' feet, killing two rioters.

Arab sources have reported that four persons wounded by gunfire and another injured by beatings were admitted to the hospitals. The IDF is continuing to investigate the events in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Right now, the entire Gaza Strip is under a curfew which will last until 0300.

IDF Updates Unrest Death Toll

TA0405133588 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 4 May 88 p 5

[Report by Yosi 'Eyn-Dor]

[Text] On Monday, 2 May, the IDF spokesman reported that 179 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the uprising in the occupied territories, according to the following breakdown:

— 144 killed by IDF fire.

— 20 killed in unclear circumstances.

— 15 killed in circumstances still being investigated.

Palestinian sources on the other hand report 242 Palestinians killed, according to the following breakdown:

— 168 killed by IDF fire.

— 13 from beatings and electrocution.

— 47 from inhaling poisonous gas.

— 14 in unclear circumstances.

An additional dead Palestinian was reported when the issue went to press.

Detained Editor Meets Lawyer; Appeals Detention

TA0405194888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] An appeal will be submitted to the Supreme Court in Jerusalem tomorrow against the detention of Mikhal Schwartz, an editor of DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK], who has been in custody these past 7 days on suspicion of belonging to a hostile organization. The ban on meetings between the defendant and her attorney, Felicia Langer, was lifted this evening. Attorney Langer told our correspondent Shlomo Arad this evening, after her meeting with Ms Schwartz in the Petah Tiqva detention facility, that the defendant totally denies all the charges.

Knesset Rejects 3 No-Confidence Motions

TA0405132088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The Knesset rejected by a large majority three no-confidence motions presented by leftist parties: HADASH, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Arab Democratic Party. Two motions were on the unrest in the territories and one on the IDF operation in Lebanon. The only supporters for the motions were the parties that presented them.

Poll Shows Shamir Gaining Popularity Over Peres

TA0405130188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 88 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir's popularity rose in April and for the first time is higher than that of Foreign Minister Peres. These are the findings of an exclusive public opinion poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ and conducted by the PORI Institute during the third week of April.

Some 36.8 percent of those asked are satisfied with Shamir's performance as prime minister, in comparison with 36.2 percent who are satisfied with the way Shim'on Peres functions as foreign minister.

A drop has been registered in Defense Minister's Rabin prestige, from 58.1 percent in March to 54.3 percent today. The defense minister's prestige is now equal to that of Finance Minister Moshe Nisim, whose rate of approval is 54.2 percent.

Ari'el Sharon's prestige as minister of industry and trade has dropped from 33.1 percent in March to 31.8 percent in the present poll, and is now lower than that of Prime Minister Shamir.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed in their homes throughout Israel.

Herut-Liberal Merger To Occur After Elections

TA0405173988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 may 88

[Text] The full merger between Herut and the Liberals will not take place before the Knesset election. Following contacts held today between Herut and Liberal leaders, it transpired that each faction will hold its internal elections separately. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Liberals are afraid that the suspension of the merger is intended to cut back on Liberal representation on the joint ticket. The Liberals will hold a special Liberal Council session next week to decide on their reaction.

Discrimination Against Arabs Continues

TA0505101988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 May 88 p 4

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Shefar'am—More than 40 per cent of Arab families in Israel are below the poverty line and 26 per cent live in extremely overcrowded conditions, according to new research sponsored by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East (ICPME).

The survey revealed that 46 per cent of Arab teenagers (aged 13-17) are not receiving a formal education—compared to a drop-out rate of 6.3 per cent among Jewish youths.

At the same time, the municipal budgets of Jewish local authorities are three times higher than the allocations given to similar-sized Arab councils.

The research project, funded by a Ford Foundation grant, was conducted by a joint Jewish-Arab staff under the direction of Prof. Henry Rosenfeld of Haifa University. The study, entitled "The Condition and Status of the Arabs in Israel," has so far investigated four separate aspects—health care, social and welfare benefits, local government and the legal status of Israeli Arabs.

In all cases, the researchers found that discrimination against Arabs continued to exist, despite some improvements, Rosenfeld said.

The findings were presented by members of the research team and representatives of the ICPME to the national committee of Arab local councils here yesterday. The council leaders welcomed the report, although they noted that previous studies by Arabs themselves had been submitted to the government but had "fallen on deaf ears." [passage omitted]

Three French Hostages Released in Beirut

NC0405184088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1826 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] We have just received the following report: Foreign news agencies reported a short while ago that, according to Summerland Hotel guards, two or three foreign hostages were released this evening. The hostages were handed over to members of Syrian intelligence. The agencies did not identify the hostages.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1835 GMT reports the following: It officially has been announced in Paris that the three French hostages Marcel Fontaine, Marcel Carton, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann have been released]

Flown Out of Beirut

NC0405200388 Paris AFP in English 1950 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 4 (AFP)—The three former French hostages left here Wednesday at 9.40 p.m. (1940 GMT) aboard a private plane, officials told AFP.

They were taken to the aircraft by Syrian security men, the sources said.

A French delegation was aboard the plane, which flew out from Beirut International Airport.

$26 Million Reportedly Paid

NC0505075088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] REUTER cites an Islamic source in Beirut as saying that France paid a ransom of approximately $26 million for the release of the French hostages. The French Government also agreed to provide Iran with arms through a third party.

Reportage on Israeli Incursion, Fighting

3 Israelis Killed, 2 Wounded

NC0405172588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1704 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] We have just been informed that foreign news agencies have cited Lebanese security sources as saying that three Israeli soldiers were killed and two others wounded during the clashes that broke out in western Al-Biqa' today.

The sources added that five soldiers of the Lebanese 1st Brigade, which is deployed in Al-Biqa', were wounded during the exchange of artillery fire with Israeli troops.

Israel Says Operation Over

NC0405171888 Paris AFP in English 1712 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Jerusalem, May 4 (AFP)—The Israeli Army announced late Wednesday the end of its military incursion into southern Lebanon aimed at ending terrorist infiltrations into Israel.

A military spokesman here said three Israeli soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded during the three-day operation.

Fighting Continues Near Maydun

NC0405183588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] According to the latest information received from the western Al-Biqa' area, the occupation forces took control of the town of Maydun at 1715 today after launching an offensive from the eastern and southern hills around Maydun. Meanwhile, the resistance fighters and the occupation forces are still trading artillery fire, and Israeli bulldozers have been sighted razing some houses in Maydun while Israeli commando forces are blowing some up.

The fighting between the resistance fighters and the occupation forces is now centered between Wadi Lusi and Maydun, where violent battles are raging.

Regarding the resistance fighters' heroic confrontation of the enemy forces in Maydun, the Islamic resistance issued Statement No 4, declaring that 6 enemy tanks and vehicles were destroyed and over 30 enemy soldiers killed. The bodies are still lying on the battlefield.

The statement added that the towns of Mashgharah, 'Ayn al-Tinah, Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Maydun have come under 155-mm artillery shelling and Israeli helicopter gunship rocket fire.

The statement said that three members of the Islamic resistance were wounded and that the battles are continuing.

30 Hizballah, 3 Amal Killed

NC0405202188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In a preliminary count of the victims, foreign news agencies indicate that 30 Hizballah members and 3 Amal personnel were killed in Maydun during the battles that took place today.

Maydun 'Destruction' Continues

NC0505102888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] According to an AFP correspondent in Maydun, Israeli forces today resumed the destruction of Maydun village, despite the announcement by Israeli authorities that their forces had withdrawn yesterday. The correspondent said that a huge Israeli bulldozer completely destroyed the houses remaining in the village this morning. He said that two tanks and an infantry unit stationed on hills overlooking the town provided protection.

UN Envoy Files Protest Against 'Invasion'

NC0405165588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received an urgent cable at noon today from the Lebanese UN representative, Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri. In it Ambassador Fakhuri says that yesterday he presented a strongly worded protest against the new Israeli invasion of the areas of Al-'Urqub, Hasbayya, and western Al-Biqa' to the UN General Secretariat. The complaint calls for the Security Council and the international community represented by the United Nations to contribute to the implementation of pertinent UN resolutions, especially Resolution 425, which provides for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces and reserves Lebanon's right to call for the Security Council to convene.

Ambassador Fakhuri also requested that the protest be distributed as an official document of the UN General Assembly and Security Council. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC0505131388 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Regarding the situation in East Beirut, sources disclosed today that the step taken by the Lebanese Forces on the ground was a precautionary measure in anticipation of a move the Army Command has decided to make. Informed sources have told our radio that last week President Amin al-Jumayyil, General Michel 'Awn, and Samir Ja'ja' met at the Presidential Palace. This was the first time the Army commander and the Lebanese Forces commander had met since the assassination of Colonel Khalil Kan'an, which the Lebanese Forces were accused of committing. The atmosphere between 'Awn and Ja'ja' during the meeting was tense. Al-Jumayyil took it upon himself to contain the situation.

Two measures preceded this meeting: one by the Army command and the other by the Lebanese Forces. The Army Command decided to stop every car without license plates, targeting the Lebanese Forces. For their part, the Lebanese Forces arrested more than 10 Army officers and soldiers and accused them, among others who sympathize with Elie Hubayqah, of attempting to assassinate Samir Ja'ja'.

The same sources have confirmed that an attempt was made against Ja'ja' in the (Al-Sidar) area in Jubayl. His motorcade came under a hail of bullets and RPG-7 projectiles. His BMW 720 armored car was hit by several bullets, which smashed the back window. The operation failed because Ja'ja' was not in the motorcade. The resulting tension, however, compelled President al-Jumayyil to intervene. He met with Ja'ja' and 'Awn at the Presidential Palace, but the sources said that meeting was a failure, with both parties opting for confrontation. It appears that Ja'ja' had anticipated the planned operation against him. This heightened tension between the two sides, forcing Patriarch Sfayr, the Lebanese Front Command, and the president to intervene in a bid to avert a clash.

Parties Discuss Camps, Israeli Aggression

NC0405162388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The nationalist and progressive parties and a delegation representing Palestinian groups held a meeting at noon today at the house of 'Asim 'Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon. Their discussions focused on the situation in western Al-Biqa' and the camps issue.

'Abd al-'Amir 'Abbas [member of the Ba'th Party Organization and the National Democratic Front] made a statement after the meeting in which he said: The conferees discussed the developments resulting from the Shatila camp incidents and expressed their satisfaction with the cease-fire there. They also decided to resolve all problems and consequences of the recent incidents and to implement this resolution completely and decisively. They set 1500 today as the time for the final settlement of this issue and a return to normal life there.

The conferees also discussed the developments in the Israeli aggression against the western Al-Biqa' area and the corresponding threat to national sovereignty. The preliminary consequences of this aggression have been the destruction of scores of houses and the arrest of thousands of Lebanese citizens living peacefully in their villages. The conferees emphasized that they will confront all contingencies of this treacherous aggression. The enemy has launched this aggression to shift the battle in the occupied territories to outside areas after failing to stem the children's revolution of stones, and to raise its army's morale, which has collapsed as a result of blows from the heroes of national resistance. The enemy is also trying to revive its agents in Lebanon in an attempt to overtly interfere and influence the presidential elections.

Role in French Hostages' Release 'Confirmed'
JN050614 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpts] The eyes of millions of French citizens were fixed on television sets last night night to follow the happy news from Beirut on the release of the three French hostages: the two diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and the journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, who are free of a terrible nightmare that lasted more than 3 years. This morning all of France is preparing to receive the three hostages.

The plane carrying the three French hostages is scheduled to arrive at the Villacoublay military airport in southwest Paris at about 1010 local time today. [Passage omitted]

In Damascus the Syrian Foreign Ministry confirmed Syria's role in the release of the hostages. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' confirmed that the release of the French hostages had been brought about through Syria's efforts and those of other sides which he did not identify. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Israeli Operation in Lebanon
JN050712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 5 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel and the Attempt To Escape by Advancing Forward," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: The most accurate description of the savage new Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon is that it is clearly an Israeli attempt to escape a number of dilemmas and developments that are not in its interest by creating a new crisis in the region. Such a crisis will divert the attention of both the Zionist entity's public opinion and that of the world from the serious situation Israel is experiencing.

The sweeping popular revolution in the occupied homeland, lasting 5 consecutive months, has managed to shuffle the cards in the Arab-Zionist conflict and has placed Israel in the most serious impasse it has ever faced in its brief and sanguinary history. This revolution has also removed, for the second time since the [1973] October war, the Israeli Army's superiority and power and spread feelings of frustration and desperation among Israeli settlers. These settlers have clearly realized that their presence in the region will continue to be rejected and temporary and that they are absolutely unable to impose a fait accompli or fulfil their dreams of establishing a safe, stable, and strong state.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel sensed the current and future effects of the uprising when it realized that the new situation created by the uprising in the region must inevitably crystallize an Arab position in response to our kinfolk's struggle in the occupied homeland. This stand reaffirms the realities of conflict with Israel as one over fate and existence and not over borders, which can be resolved by bilateral agreements and negotiations. The paper continues: This makes clear the objectives that Israel seeks by its show of power and muscle flexing, which come after signing a memorandum on enhancing understanding with the United States. This memorandum affirms Washington's absolute, long-term commitment to Israel and its expansionist schemes. Israel also aims to restore its settlers' confidence after the Zionist Army sank in the morass of failure while facing the occupied homeland's revolution. It also aims to emphasize its intention to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs and to carry out its traditional role of undermining and obstructing any efforts to spread security and acheive lebanese national accord.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The aggression will only be an attempt to escape by advancing forward and also a clear Israeli admission of failure to confront the dilemmas it is experiencing. As long as the popular revolution in the occupied homeland continues and as long as the Arab liberation forces, led by Syria, adhere to their consistent and principled stands and persistently work to realize Arab solidarity vis-a-vis Israel and achieve a strategic parity, the

Most Freed Detainees Held Under Criminal Charges
JN050721 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
3 May 88 p 1

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Beirut, Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources confirm that the number of Palestinian detainees recently released by the Syrian authorities totals 120.

The confirmation follows a report broadcast by the Lebanese Phalangist radio saying that only 12 seriously ill detainees were released.

However, Palestinian sources have stated to AL-ANBA' that most of those released had been held on criminal, not political, charges.

The sources add that Fatah Central Committee member Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, alias Abu al-Hawl, was apparently dissatisfied when he saw the list of released detainees.

During his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had promised to release Palestinian detainees held in Syrian prisons in response to a request by Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu Mahir.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Cut Off Kabul-Jalalabad Highway 4 May

BK0505114688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP)—A group of Afghan resistance fighters have cut the 90-kilometre-long highway linking Kabul with the eastern town of Jalalabad, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported Thursday.

The more than 50 Afghan resistance guerrillas were manning a blockade near the Mahi Par area, some 20 kilometres east of the capital, but were allowing civilian traffic to pass, the agency said, citing witnesses.

AIP said the guerrillas killed five Afghan soldiers and destroyed a tank and a vehicle in the operation Wednesday.

Jalalabad, capital of eastern Nangarhar Province near the Pakistani border, is a vital town for the Afghan Government because power stations there supply electricity to Kabul.

Observers here said that although it is difficult to maintain control of the mountainous town, the Afghan army is expected to struggle hard because its fall to the resistance would pose a serious threat to Kabul.

600 Militiamen Reportedly Defect to Mujahidin

BK0505094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP)—Six hundred Afghan militiamen have defected to the resistance just 11 days before the beginning of a phased withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, resistance sources said Thursday.

The sources said the 600 Afghan militiamen defected Wednesday to the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF) guerrilla group at the town of Spin Buldak in the southern province of Qandahar near the border with Pakistan.

They said the militiamen brought eight trucks, an armoured car, 600 AK-47 rifles, 50 light machine guns, anti-aircraft guns and artillery with them.

It was the first reported large-scale defection by Afghan militiamen since Kabul and Islamabad signed an agreement in Geneva on April 14 calling for a pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan beginning May 15.

The Afghan resistance has rejected the accord and vowed to continue the struggle to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Afghan resistance sources said the defection was a setback to Afghan Government attempts to maintain control of the city of Qandahar.

The ANLF, led by Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, is one of the strongest Afghan resistance groups along the border with Pakistan, according to resistance sources.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Pakistani Accusations

LD0405172588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry reported to BAKHTAR that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1215 today, 4 May. The following points were made to him.

In continuing their unfounded accusations, the Pakistani authorities have recently claimed that the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan allegedly attacked the region of (Tomandi) located in Chaman on 23 March; and the artillery force attacked the regions of (Ghakhi) located in Bajaur Agency, (FAI) post and the regions near (FG) post and the post (Taqsim Ab) in the region of Landikhana located in Khyber Agency on 2, 15 and 22 April.

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, after investigation, have regarded this claim by the Pakistani authorities as unfounded and without truth. In rejecting the accusations, they ask the responsible authorities in Pakistan to refrain from making such unfounded accusations, which intensify the border situation.

Najibullah Interviewed Prior to India Visit

LD0405181188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, left today for New Delhi at the head of a high-ranking delegation at the invitation of his Excellency Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the leadership of the Republic of India on an official and friendly visit to that country. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure, Esteemed Najibullah answered questions from a BAKHTAR correspondent at Kabul airport. We draw your attention to the text of this press conference:

Question: Esteemed President, you are beginning an official visit to the friendly country of India. We would like you to express your opinion on this visit. What influence could this visit have on the expansion of Afghan-Indian relations?

Answer: We accepted with great pleasure and interest the invitation of Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India, and the leadership of that country, to visit the great country of India, with whom the people of Afghanistan have long-standing and friendly relations.

I am confident that the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan's visit to India will help to further consolidate the traditional friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and India. It will create a new impetus for further cooperation between Afghanistan and India in all spheres.

Question: The signing of the Geneva Accords is regarded as a very important step and a turning point in resolving the external dimensions of the situation around Afghanistan. The solution to the internal aspects of this question is on the daily agenda. In your opinion, what new initiatives can be expected in this regard?

Answer: I have already decisively stated the stand of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the issues relating to the internal situation, namely, the maintenance of national reconciliation, the distribution of power, and the creation of a coalition government, which should be worked out here on Afghan territory, not in foreign capitals, but by the Afghans themselves. This stand has been supported by the UN secretary general and the representatives of a great number of international organizations.

I think that, in order to reach this goal, the traditions which have been left to us by our forefathers and have been tested in practice should be utilized. A national peace assembly, with the participation of all concerned parties should be convened, not on the territory of others, but here in Afghanistan.

Such an assembly should be open to everybody—representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan, leaders of armed groups inside the country, all opposition cadres and organizations, refugees, influential personalities, and representatives of refugee circles in European and other countries.

The tasks of the national peace assembly are to stop the war and solve all issues relating to the internal situation. I am fully confident that such an initiative will be supported by all the people of Afghanistan.

Delegation Members Listed

LD0505090288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 4, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, left for New Delhi for an official and friendly visit at the head of a high-ranking delegation at the invitation of Premier Rajiv Gandhi, and the leadership of the Republic of India.

President Najibullah was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, ministers of defence and state security, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the embassies and that of India in Kabul.

The Afghan high-ranking delegation headed by Najibullah is composed of 'Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the Central Council of National Front and president of High Commission of National Reconciliation; Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC; Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, deputy premier and president of the State Committee for Refugees Affairs; 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs; Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, minister of interior, Muhammad Khan Jalalar, commerce minister; and Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, head of Foreign Ministry Political Department. A team of pressmen also accompanies the Afghan delegation.

Najibullah Greets Ziaul Haq En Route to India

LD0405181988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Message from President Najibullah to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq while overflying Pakistani airspace on 4 May]

[Text] Your Excellency, the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

While overflying the airspace of your country I express my best wishes for your good health and the prosperity and tranquility of the people of Pakistan. I hope that relations between our peoples and countries develop and consolidate on the basis of friendship and goodneighborliness in the interest of peace and stability in the region and in the world following the signing of the Geneva accords.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan

Sharq, Rafi' Hold Talks With UN Observer Team

LD0405085488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR—Hasan Sharq, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Refugees Affairs, met Major-General Rauli Helminen (Finland), head of the group of the UN observers who have come to Kabul to see the implementation of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan here today.

During the meeting, the deputy prime minister apprised him of the measures taken for providing facilities to the refugees returning back home.

Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi', minister of defence of Afghanistan, also met Major-General Rauli Helminen today.

During the meeting the Afghan defence minister expressed all-sided readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan for implementation of the Geneva accords and promised all-sided cooperations of his ministry with the group of the UN observers in its peaceful mission.

Rafi' Comments on Defense Policy, Geneva Accords
LD0405090388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR—According to the accords reached in Geneva between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, both countries are bound to pay respect to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and to each other cultural and national identity, said Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi', defence minister of the Republic of Afghanistan and Politburo member of the PDPA CC, replying to a question of BAKHTAR reporter.

He added that the bilateral agreement requires the both countries to refrain from the use of force as well as from the armed intervention, subversion, military occupation, and from training, equipping, financing, and recruiting mercenaries inside their territories.

Under the present conditions, the Armed Forces are preparing for safeguarding independently the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, the country's independence and the gains of April Revolution. Our military doctrine has defensive characteristic. We will never carry out offensive military operations against any country unless we become subject to armed aggression, the defence minister said.

Based on Geneva accords, the refugees are allowed to return home voluntarily and freely. The Government of Afghanistan has provided all the facilities for the return of our countrymen and will do so in future as well.

The Ministry of Defence is also taking an active part in providing facilities for the repatriates.

Answering a question on the combat preparedness of the Armed Forces, the Afghan minister of defence said that the Geneva agreements provide for the solution of the external aspects of the situation in Afghanistan. Proceeding from this, the internationalist soldiers of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union are going to return to their homeland.

The Armed Forces who are the staunch advocates of the policy of national reconciliation are taking all sided measures for safeguarding the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and the gains of the April Revolution.

The combat preparedness of our Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi' added, is meeting the existing requirements and the Armed Forces have the capability to defend the interests of the people, revolution and their country. The recent performance by the Armed Forces for securing peace in the provinces of the country testify to this fact.

Thanks to the leadership of the state and to that of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, general secretary of the PDPA CC and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan has changed to a united ironed fist which is equipped with modern military techniques and can inflict crushing blows to enemies, said the Afghan defence minister.

Mujahidin Reject Najibullah's Peace Talks Offer
BK0505131888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpts] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders Thursday rejected a new offer by Afghan President Najibullah for unconditional peace talks, resistance sources said.

Leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said that after sacrificing 1.5 million people they could not reconcile with Mr Najibullah, the sources said.

Describing the Afghan president as a "puppet" who had "no right to offer such proposals," the Afghan resistance leaders said: "If he (Najibullah) wants peace, he should leave."

Mr Najibullah, who arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday for a three-day visit, made the offer for unconditional peace talks at a banquet hosted by Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman. [passage omitted]

A United Nations team set up to implement the Geneva accord ended a four-day visit to Kabul on Thursday, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent in the Afghan capital reported.

Major General Rauli Helminen of Finland, head of the United Nations Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), said he had found the Soviet-backed Kabul government "very determined" to implement the accord.

"We found the same determination on this side which we found in Islamabad," Maj-Gen Helminen told AFP in Kabul as the team headed for the Pakistani capital via New Delhi.

The UNGOMAP team was set up under the Geneva accord to assist in the Soviet troop withdrawal and the return of three million Afghan refugees from Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Baghlan Floods Cause Damage, Casualties

LD0405234588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR—Bodies of tens of persons who lost their lives as a result of the recent floods occurred in the Pesheman village of Dahaneh-ye Ghowri District of Baghlan Province were discovered, our correspondent reports from that province.

Hundreds of houses were demolished during the floods as well.

Also, the Gawargan [name as received] irrigational project sustained damage worth around forty million afghanis.

At the instruction of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, a commission has been set up to render immediate assistance to those who sustained losses and to determine the damage occurred during the mishap.

Najibullah Orders Assistance

LD0405224688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, after becoming aware of the loss of life and materials as a result of recent fearful floods in Baghlan and Samangan Provinces, expressed his profound sorrow and asked Almighty God to grant patience to the families and relatives of the victims.

The presidential office reported that Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued instructions to the relevant organs in the capital and in those provinces to organize immediate and extraordinary assistance to the families of the flood victims.

Group of 'Armed Extremists' Crushed in Paktia

LD0405091288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 3 BAKHTAR—A group of armed extremists which was plundering public properties in suburbs of Paktia Province, bordering Pakistan, was crushed by the Armed Forces.

As a result of the operation carried by the Armed Forces with assistance of the people, a number of these criminals including their ring leader Muhammad Amin were crushed and their two vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition captured by the Armed Forces.

India

Further Reportage on Visit of Najibullah

Kabul Details Arrival

LD0405205788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA, arrived in New Delhi at the head of a high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan at the invitation of His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, and the leadership of the Republic of India at 1200 today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from New Delhi that Esteemed Najibullah was greeted at Indira Gandhi International Airport by Natwar Singh, minister of state for foreign affairs; a number of high-ranking officials, and 'Abdul Samad Azhur, ambassador and representative extraordinary, and other officials of the Embassy of Afghanistan in India.

After the ceremonies at the airport, the car of Esteemed Najibullah was escorted by motorcycles as he moved toward Rashtrapati Bhavan Palace, the president's house.

While Esteemed Najibullah was entering the presidential palace his car was escorted by cavalry who were carrying the national flags of both countries.

At the presidential palace Esteemed Najibullah was greeted by His Excellency R. Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India; Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister; members of the cabinet; Esteemed (Bachia), chairman of Afghan-India friendship society; Esteemed Inder Pal Khosla, ambassador and representative extraordinary of India in Afghanistan; and a number of India's members of Parliament.

Then Esteemed Najibullah stood at the special platform while the national anthems of both countries were played and a 21-gun salute was fired.

The report adds that Esteemed Najibullah then visited the honor guard made up of Air Force, infantry, and Navy and went to meet the welcoming party. After greeting them, Esteemed Najibullah was escorted to his residence by His Excellency R. Venkataraman and His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the road between Indira Gandhi International Airport and the presidential palace was decorated with the national flags of both countries.

The slogans "Long live Afghan-Indian friendship," "Afghan friends, welcome to India," and many others were displayed.

Meets With Leaders

LD0405212288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah met at 1600 today with His Excellency R. Venkataraman, the president of India in Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's house. Esteemed Najibullah expressed his deep gratitude for the warm and friendly welcome of the high-ranking Afghan delegation.

The president of Afghanistan said this visit had historic importance and would lead to further consolidation of all-round relations between the fraternal nations of India and Afghanistan.

Esteemed Najibullah added that relations between Afghanistan and India have historic roots and the current of events had given the people of the two countries a similar destiny. The president said he was happy that so much progress and development had been achieved by the great people of India.

During this meeting, Esteemed Najibullah shed light on the process of national reconciliation and the process of ending the bloodshed inside Afghanistan and remarked on the reception of this policy by the people of Afghanistan and the world.

Similarly, during this meeting, the president of India mentioned with pleasure the mutual relations between the two countries and expressed his pleasure that the president of Afghanistan had the opportunity of visiting India formally for the first time.

The president added that the relations of the peoples of Afghanistan and India go back to prehistoric times. It is necessary that these relations continue to evolve in the future as well.

According to another report, Esteemed Najibullah met with Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, in his residence at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 1700 today. The meeting, which lasted for 2 hours, took place in an atmosphere of total understanding and cordiality.

During this meeting, the two sides discussed various issues of the world and the region and reached the conclusion that the process of settling problems in and around Afghanistan is the main issue in resolving regional disputes through dialogue and diplomacy.

The president of Afghanistan spoke about progress in the process of national reconciliation, and the two sides acknowledged the positive effects of the signing of the Geneva agreements and, similarly, the possibilities resulting from the establishment of stability and peace in the region and the expansion of cooperation in various dimensions.

The leadership of both countries talked about the expansion of bilateral economic, cultural, and trade relations and underlined the importance of further consolidating these relations.

More on Meetings

BK0405162388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the visiting Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, exchanged views on the developments that have taken place in the region after the signing of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan.

The talks, lasting over 2 hours, were described as warm and cordial. Their discussions will continue tomorrow.

Dr Najibullah also called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house] this evening. He was accompanied by a senior member of his delegation.

During his discussion with Mr Venkataraman, Dr Najibullah outlined the efforts being made for developing Afghanistan as a pluralistic multiparty state. The Afghan president referred to the recent elections in his country and said this was the first occasion when opposition parties also took part constitutionally.

The delegations of the two countries also met separately. Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said the talks lasting about 90-minutes were cordial. The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mr 'Abdul Wakil, who led his country's delegation to the talks, said Kabul is committed to the full implementation of the accord.

He stressed the need for parties to strictly adhere to the instruments of the accord and follow the principle of noninterference. Mr Wakil also underlined the importance his country attaches to the present talks.

The leader of the Indian delegation, Mr Natwar Singh, reiterated New Delhi's desire to strengthen relations with Kabul. He spoke about India's efforts to seek a political solution to the Afghan problem.

The talks will continue tomorrow.

Banquet Speeches Noted

BK0505034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] India and Afghanistan have expressed the hope that the Geneva accord would help stop the induction of sophisticated weapons in South Asia, particularly the supply of nuclear weapons to Pakistan which could only be used against India.

Expressing the hope that the accord would bring peace and stability in the region, the president, Mr Venkataraman, stressed the need to end outside interference.

At a banquet held in honor of the visiting Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, in New Delhi, the president said that if sincerely implemented, the accord will usher in a new era of peace in the region.

He said Dr Najibullah's visit comes at a crucial juncture in the history of Afghanistan and of the region. It provides an opportunity for exchange of ideas on the situation emerging after the signing of the Geneva accord.

Recalling the Indo-Afghan age-old links, the president offered India's help in the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Mr Venkataraman said India would like to see a strong, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan.

In his reply, Dr Najibullah recalled India's help to Kabul at crucial moments. He commended India's achievements in various socioeconomic fields and also complimented the country's initiative toward achieving the Delhi Declaration on nuclear disarmament.

Dr Najibullah invited all Afghans, including the rebels, to attend a nationwide peace council to solve the internal problems of the country after the Soviet troop withdrawal.

He said his government is striving to build goodneighborly relations with all the countries of the region, including Pakistan, Iran, and China. Dr Najibullah added that Afghanistan will remain a neutral and nonaligned country.

Dr Najibullah met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday and exchanged views on the developments that have taken place in the region after the signing of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan.

The talks, lasting over 2 hours, were described as warm and cordial. The discussions will continue today.

Cooperation on Geneva Accord

BK0505092588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has reaffirmed India's full cooperation to Afghanistan in implementing the Geneva accord. Mr Buta Singh had an hour-long meeting with the Afghan home minister, General Sayyid Muhammad Gulabzoy, in New Delhi today.

Gen Gulabzoy outlined the Afghan Government's policy of national reconciliation to restore peace and stability in his country following the signing of the Geneva agreement.

He referred to the traditional bonds of friendship between India and Afghanistan and said there is great scope for expanding bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, a six-member Nepali Army officers team has gone to Kabul to join the military assistance group set up under the Geneva accord. The group, consisting of 50 officers from 8 countries, will monitor the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the return of Afghan refugees.

Commentary on Visit

BK0405120388 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 May 88

[Commentary by S. Vishwam of THE TRIBUNE]

[Text] A warm welcome awaits the Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, who arrives in New Delhi today, that is, on Wednesday, on a 3-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The visit has tremendous political significance.

There is much appreciation in the Indian capital that Dr Najibullah responded to Mr Rajiv Gandhi's invitation so readily despite his preoccupations at home with just 11 days left before the Soviet military pullout from Afghanistan begins on 14 May.

The prime minister's invitation to Dr Najibullah to come to New Delhi for high-level discussions on the eve of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops reflects India's desire to play a constructive role in shaping the situation that would emerge in Afghanistan once the process of the implementation of the Geneva accord begins.

The fact that the Afghan president also attaches much importance to the visit is reflected in the high profile delegation he is bringing with him. Those accompanying him include the foreign minister, Mr 'Abdul Wakil; the interior minister, General Sayyid Muhammad Gulabzoy; the deputy prime minister and president of the repatriation committee, Dr (Muhammad Hashim Sharq); member of the PDPA Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, Dr Salih Muhammad Ziray; and president of the National Front and chairman of the National Reconciliation Committee, Mr Abdurrahim Hatif.

The program for the visit has been so planned that there will be opportunities for exchange of views not only on the political situation within Afghanistan but also on the development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

For New Delhi, the talks with the distinguished visitor and his delegation members represent the continuation of its policy to keep in touch with all political elements which are relevant to the restoration of peace and normalcy in Afghanistan.

The Indian interest in the peaceful settlement of the crisis, which overtook Afghanistan with the entry of Soviet troops almost a decade ago, is well known.

New Delhi has played a constructive but low profile role all these years. It has kept in touch with the Afghanistan government leaders, representatives of various other political elements, including the Peshawar-based mujahidin groups and with the former King Zahir Shah.

What it sought all along was the evolution of a consensus position over the administrative and political setup which should come into being once the Soviet troops withdraw.

Both Moscow and Washington have all along been aware of the Indian interest in the peaceful settlement of the conflict. They have in recent months publicly acknowledged the constructive role played by India in this respect. Dr Najibullah's talks in the Indian capital will naturally focus on the shape of the interim setup in Afghanistan in the post-Geneva accord period.

New Delhi never shared the view of either the United States or Pakistan that Dr Najibullah's government would be unable to survive or hold its own once the withdrawal of the Soviet troops begins.

It believed that the framework of the national reconciliation process initiated by Dr Najibullah in 1986 offering to accommodate various political elements, including the local commanders in the interim setup, had more than a reasonable chance of success.

It also believed in the capacity of the PDPA to stand on its own. It was these perceptions that not only strengthened India's role but also formed the basis for the prime minister's invitation to the Afghan president.

Pakistan, on the other hand, had not only presupposed the collapse of the PDPA regime but had also insisted during the Geneva round of negotiations on the replacement of the PDPA government with an interim arrangement acceptable to the mujahidin. It had to change its stand subsequently.

Although the Geneva agreement is deliberately silent on the setup in Kabul after the Soviet military pullout, the United Nations negotiator, Mr Diego Cordovez, is expected to promote intra-Afghan interaction to bring about a broad-based regime.

It is in this context that Dr Najibullah's talks in New Delhi will prove significant and useful. Undoubtedly, New Delhi would like to assure Dr Najibullah that it would like his national reconciliation process to succeed, and that whatever assistance India can offer—diplomatically or otherwise—in restoring normalcy would be available to Kabul.

In the ultimate analysis, India would like nothing better than the reemergence of Afghanistan as a sovereign, democratic, nonaligned country, which after so many years of strife will be able to strive independently for the welfare of its people.

India is convinced that the Geneva agreement will be able to herald a situation in South Asia leading to the reduction of regional tension. It is with this perspective that the high-level exchange will take place in the coming 3 days.

Police Seize Heroin, Arrest 2 Afghans in Delhi

BK0505045488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0052 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Police here Wednesday arrested two Afghan nationals and seized about 45 kilograms (99 lb) of heroin—the biggest ever such haul, police said.

The drugs were estimated to be worth more than 34 million dollars in international markets.

Ajay Aggarwal, additional commissioner of police, told reporters the Afghans, 'Abdul Had and Ahmad Wali, were carrying the drugs in two suitcases when police intercepted them in South Delhi.

Mr. Aggarwal reported the Afghans as saying that they had smuggled the fine quality heroin from Pakistan into India's western desert state of Rajasthan.

Indian authorities say that 64 tonnes of narcotics, including heroin and opium, were seized last year. Many drugs seizures have been reported this year.

Narcotics control board officials have estimated that, on an average, 90 per cent of heroin smuggled into India arrives from Pakistan.

Sri Lankan 'Elements' Trained in Pakistan

BK0505093088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs told the Rajya Sabha today that the IPKF in Sri Lanka has found evidence that some elements involved in recent communal clashes in Eastern Province in the island have been trained in Pakistan.

In a written reply to a question, the minister said the government views such developments with concern. He said communal clashes and violence hamper the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

Meanwhile, two candidates of the ruling United National Party for the forthcoming central provincial council elections were shot dead last night. Police said armed men gunned down Mr Kulatunga and Mr Vikremaratna in their houses. Both the killings are alleged to have been done by JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists.

'Terrorists' Shoot Former Official, Villagers

BK0405125888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, a former district general secretary of Akali Dal-L, Mr Ajmer Singh of Solahali village in Ferozepore District, was shot dead by terrorists last night. The terrorists also gunned down a couple in a village in Gurdaspur District and a brick kiln worker in Jullundur District.

In police encounters in Amritsar, Faridkot, and Gurdaspur Districts, three terrorists were killed; another was captured in Nakodar area of Jullundur District.

Government Declares 2 Political Groups Illegal

BK0405163688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Government has declared National Council of Khalistan and Dal Khalsa as unlawful association. An official press release says that action has been taken under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

It will take effect immediately. Both the Council and Dal Khalsa have been encouraging secessionist, disruptive, and antinational activities, according to the release.

Remote Sensing Satellite Transmitting Regularly

BK0505042288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The country's first remote sensing satellite, IRS-1A, is regularly sending picture signals. Its self-scanning sensor cameras take images of earth resources. These images are received in the form of picture signals at Shadnagar earth station near Hyderabad.

The signals are recorded on high density digital tapes. A quick look to the [words indistinct] system enables a scientist to study the pattern of coverage. The tapes are converted into smaller categories of the required area.

They are then developed into photographs which are distributed among the user agencies. These photographs are of immense help in surveying natural resources in the fields of agriculture, geology, hydrology, and meteorology. The satellite, which was launched on the 17th of March, takes about 14 rounds of the earth in 24 hours.

Iran

U.S. Warships Stop Oil Ministry Ship in Gulf

LD0405165788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In a provocative and adventurist move last night, U.S. warships stopped a cargo ship belonging to the Oil Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the waters of the Persian Gulf and questioned its crew.

IRNA reports that the "Iran-Mehrab" cargo ship, which was heading toward one of Iran's oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, carried on with its journey shortly after being intercepted by U.S. warships.

An informed military source said: This U.S. move was a provocative and illegal one and demonstrates that the United States wishes to extend its adventurist acts in the Persian Gulf.

Diplomat Interviewed on Events in Saudi Arabia

LD0405113788 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—Following the break in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia late last month, Iran's Riyadh Embassy staff returned here this morning and were welcomed by Foreign Ministry officials.

Iran's charge d'affaires to Riyadh Mohammad Hoseyn Tarami said in an interview upon arrival that the Saudi decision to sever diplomatic ties with the Islamic Republic had not been taken "all of a sudden" but had been pre-planned by Riyadh since long time ago.

To justify their move, he said, the Saudis resorted to a series of false claims against Iran and the Hijaz regime's mass media created a propaganda atmosphere paving the way for the rupture of relations between the two countries.

Tarami said the Saudi regime has not been able to justify its massacre of hajj pilgrims in Mecca last year before the Muslim world's public opinion while it has mentioned the event as one of its pretexts to cut relations with Iran. He said despite the admission by several other countries including the U.S. that Saudi troops had fired at the demonstrators, the Hijaz regime is still denying this.

On the behaviour of Saudi officers towards Iranian Embassy staff in Riyadh, Tarami said it was very indecent and against accepted international laws.

After the break in relations was announced, he said, Iran's Embassy and Consulate as well as residences of Iranian Embassy staff were put under strict security control so that the embassy staff were inspected and interrogated by Saudi officers each time they left or entered the building.

This underserving Saudi move took place while according to the international law, members of the diplomatic mission should enjoy diplimatic rights until the end of the deadline they are given to leave the country.

The Iranian charge d'affaires said Riyadh had rejected a request by him to assign a third country to take care of Iran's interest in Saudi Arabia. They said they would consider the matter after the Iranian delegation leaves the Saudi soil, Tarami added.

He also accused Saudi security forces of raiding Iran's Embassy (in Riyadh) and Consulate in Jeddah on Tuesday morning and beating and injuring their Iranian staff. They also took many important documents and other things with them, he charged.

On the same day, he said, Al Sa'ud agents attacked houses of Iranian staff in Riyadh and Jeddah again. In Jeddah, he said, they forced the Iranian staff to go with them to an unknown destination and then transferred them to Tehran.

Another obstruction created by the Saudis, Tarami said, was their refusal to issue landing permission to an Iranian plane sent to pick them up. They issued the permission in the last hours and as a result the Iranian staffers had to leave some of their luggages at Riyadh and Jeddah airports.

Further on Mohtashemi's Views on Elections
LD0505122188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The press and radio-television interview by Interior Minister Mohtashemi on the second round of the Third Majlis elections is the topic of our second news report.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Mohtashemi, please tell us about the next Friday's International Jerusalem Day when the second round of the Third Majlis elections will be held. Please tell us how many candidates have found their way to the second round?

[Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I thank all those who were involved in the elections, either those who were involved in implementing it or those who were supervising it. Also I thank the martyr-nurturing nation who participated in the elections, who were present at the polling stations on 7 April, despite the conspiracies of global arrogance, the superpowers, and the dependent regime of Iraq, whose main effort and endeavors were directed at defeating the determined will of the Iranian nation. The nation came and more than 17 million voters participated.

I must say that of a total of 196 electoral constituencies, in the first round 188 candidates achieved sufficient votes; that is, 141 electoral constituencies completed their electoral work in the first round.

In the second round, in these 55 electoral constituencies we must elect 82 representatives. Naturally, 164 candidates will contest elections in the second round. These brothers and sisters are allowed to engage in electioneering propaganda until 24 hours prior to voting time.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Aqazadeh Says U.S., Others Disrupt Oil Market
LD0405221888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In the cabinet session on Wednesday, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir Huseyn Musavi, Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh submitted a report on his participation of the recent OPEC meeting.

This report explained the background on the activities to establish coordination between OPEC and non-OPEC producers on controlling the production level and attaining true prices on the world oil markets. The report also looked at the obstacles to achieving results at this meeting.

Mr Aqazadeh stressed that efforts of the United States and their Saudi and Kuwaiti satellites to disrupt the oil market would have no actual effect on the market since they are contrary to the economic and national interests of all the oil producers. On the contrary, these efforts will put these countries, which are forgetting their national interests, under pressure.

Also at this cabinet session, the decision to inaugurate the representative office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Zambia and New Zealand was approved.

Oil Ministry Distributes Oil Platform Photos
LD0405154288 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Oil Ministry has sent pictures of the two Iranian oil platforms "Salman" and "Nasr" to all international forums, oil companies and the press showing them before and after the unprovoked attack by U.S. forces on April 18.

A statement along with the pictures categorically condemned the brutal aggression of the U.S. forces against Iranian economic interests in the Persian Gulf.

The pictures clearly display that the platforms were busy with their usual job of producing oil before the U.S. bombarded them.

The Oil Ministry statement pointing out the rigs were non-military targets called on international bodies, oil companies, human right groups and oil experts throughout the world to protest the martyrdom of Iranian professionals due to the U.S. aggression. It also urged them to take appropriate and active measures to prevent world arrogance from repeating such dastardly acts against civilians.

Commentary on U.S. Admiral Crowe's Statement
LD0405151688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 4 May 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the announcement made by Washington to escort neutral ships and in the wake of the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive response announcing that it will defend its own interests, Admiral William Crowe, the U.S. joint chief of staff, announced in the Persian Gulf region yesterday: Iran is viewed as our dangerous enemy in the Persian Gulf. He added: The Iranians clearly enjoy inflicting blows and losses on us to embarrass us.

If what the U.S. joint chief of staff has said concerns Iran's position regarding the U.S. plan to escort the so-called neutral ships, we must say that the U.S. admiral has understood our position. For Iran has vital interests in the Persian Gulf and will confront anyone who intends to threaten or disrupt these interests. For the security of the Persian Gulf is more important to Iran than to any other country, particularly because Iran has the longest shoreline in the Persian Gulf region, is against the tension-creating acts of the foreign powers in this region, and believes that it is the duty of the regional countries to maintain security in the Persian Gulf. In addition, Iran is engaged in a war against an enemy and the new U.S. plan's sole objective is to offer overt support to this enemy, to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and its backers—a plan, the ultimate aim of which is to inflict blows on Iran's interests.

For this reason, in an occasion yesterday Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, in front of the Islamic Majlis pointed out: Despite the new U.S. policy to safeguard shipping in the Persian Gulf, Iran will carry out its retaliatory measures on the deterrent level.

On the other hand however, if the U.S. joint chief of staff in his remark "Iran is our dangerous enemy in the Persian Gulf region" means that Iran is seeking to escalate tension in the Persian Gulf region, then we must say that this is not the case. The object of the U.S. admiral's remarks are to justify Reagan's militaristic policies and to justify the involvement of U.S. personnel in the Persian Gulf. These remarks are aimed mainly at the people of the United States because it is the U.S. aggressive forces who have come to the region, violated our interests, and attacked Iran's oil installations under some vague accusations.

Moreover, through their anti-Iran plans, they have openly supported the Iraqi aggressive regime and continue to do so. At any rate, it is obvious that if the Americans wish to remain in the region, or if they intend to continue their tension-creating policies in the Persian Gulf, Iran's combat forces will have no alternative but to deliver blows at them and their interests; and Iran's warriors will defend their own interests. As William Crowe, the U.S. joint chief of staff, said: Iran is the United States' dangerous enemy and clearly enjoys inflicting blows on the United States to embarrass her.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Arms Sales Policy
NC0405142388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 May 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "Deadly Transactions for the Perpetuation of U.S. Imperialism"]

[Excerpts] THE NEW YORK TIMES, citing the U.S. State Department, reported that during the current fiscal year the United States hopes to sell arms worth $15 billion to various countries of the world. This figure represents a $3.3 billion increase over last year's arms sales. The annual worldwide sale of astronomical quantities of modern arms, which is usually announced by U.S. official (?sources), is indicative of the U.S. politicians' hegemonistic nature which seeks to instigate wars. What first comes to mind when looking at the quantity of arms exported by the United States to other countries is that either these countries remain constantly embroiled in war, or that they find themselves on the brink of war and thereby make the necessary preparations to receive these arms.

On this basis, numerous analysts and observers of international politics propound the theory that the arms manufacturers incite limited wars or regional crises in order to boost their arms sales. Of course, the United States is not the only exporter of vast quantities of modern and expensive arms. However, as the leader of the world's capitalist system, the assessment of its motives and objectives for its worldwide arms sales explains the decline of (?values) in this system. The most general motive can simply be stated as the desire for the immense income accrued from the production or sale of arms. [passage omitted]

The U.S. politicians, most of whom are major shareholders in the arms industry, are always trying to manipulate situations in order to create crises and generate tension in various parts of the world. Other factors affecting the arms trade are the flow of capital throughout the international capitalist system and the restructuring of the system. This is because the essence of a capitalist system is such that an increase in the capital [words indistinct] and stagnation [words indistinct] can bring the very base of this system face to face with the danger of destruction. However, increasing arms production and sales results in the wider circulation of money.

On the political scene, the worldwide sale of U.S. arms, particularly to Third World countries, is of special importance. Through the sale of arms which it has produced and exported—arms that it knows how to utilize better than anyone else—the United States is able to dictate the defensive systems of countries which have

large quantities of these arms and to retain them in a position of military dependence. In view of this and in conditions of military emergency, the door to this country's military presence in troubled areas is opened by the need for U.S. experts and arms assistance. A perfect example of this phenomenon can be seen clearly in the Persian Gulf at present.

The issue of U.S. arms exports to various countries of the world has another aspect that should be examined. While the United States continues to manufacture and export arms to many countries, particularly Third World countries where most of the (?funds) obtained from [words indistinct] are expended on arms purchases, it is possible that with the struggles of the deprived nations of the world on the one hand and the tottering and decaying condition of the capitalistic system on the other that these arms may fall into the hands of the tyrannized and oppressed nations.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,192

LD0405171988 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—Iranian anti-aircraft fire shot down two Iraqi warplanes in the southern province of Fars, at 11:04 hours local time (07:34 GMT) today. The pilot of one of the planes was captured by the Muslim combatants.

Announcing the above Wednesday, the 3,192nd Joint Staff communique added that the Islamic Republic Air Force carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Tuesday, reconnoitering 12 vessels.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian naval gunboats, in addition to carrying out patrol missions to prevent any military equipment from reaching Iraq yesterday, reconnoitered five warships and merchant vessels.

On the battlefields, Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses when their positions and troop concentration sites were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants suppressed activities of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, Nahr 'Anbar, Sharhani and Talaiyeh Tuesday, inflicting several casualties and losses on the enemy.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western sectors yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and inflicting heavy losses on them.

On Tuesday, Iranian artillery fire silenced fire of Iraqi troops in Hajj 'Umran, Qal'at Dizah, Sar Dasht, Shilar and Kani-Sheykh, concluded the communique.

3d Iraqi Plane Downed

NC0505064588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces reported that on Tuesday and Wednesday the Air Force carried out routine missions and defended the country's skies from aggression by enemy planes. The communique adds that the Air Force carried out patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in order to ascertain the positions of vessels and reconnoitered several foreign vessels. Also, the personnel of the Islamic Republic's Navy patrolled the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in order to prevent the delivery of goods and military materiel to the Iraqi regime, and reconnoitered five warships and cargo vessels.

Meanwhile, fighters of the Islamic Republic's Ground Forces strengthened their defense positions on all fronts of the imposed war. By dispatching various patrol and combat groups and carrying out effective and crushing attacks on the enemy's positions and strongholds, killed and wounded several enemy personnel.

Also, thanks to the vigilance of the defense units, two aggressive Iraqi planes which, according to eyewitness reports, were Mirages, became the targets of effective antiaircraft attacks in the region and were downed in Fars Province. It is recalled that the pilot of one of the downed Iraqi planes has been captured.

According to latest reports, another aggressive Iraqi plane was hit on Wednesday by the antiaicraft fire of the fighters of Islam in the northern Persian Gulf. The plane crashed in Iraqi territory.

Al-Mawsil Operation Detailed

LD0505111188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The Ramadan Headquarters, center for the irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, reports that the forces of the Al-Da'wah Party [Islamic Call] of Iraq, last week infiltrated the city of 'Aqrah in the province of Al-Mawsil and greatly damaged its security and intelligence services building.

According to this report the forces of the Al-Da'wah Party, together with the cooperation of the peshmerga Iraqi Kurds in two separate operations attacked a power plant and oil reserve tanks in Al-Mawsil Province in Iraq, dealing effective blows to the Zionist regime ruling Iraq. Following these operations, the Iraqi peshmerga and mujahidin in all returned safely to base.

Pakistan

Najibullah's Visit to India Termed 'Unfortunate'

BK0405171688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Pakistan has stressed the need to intensify efforts to establish a broad-based interim government in Afghanistan enabling the refugees to return to their homes, as the implementation of the Geneva accord is due to begin in 11 days.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan is making the necessary preparations to facilitate the return of the refugees and is expecting the other parties to reciprocate with similar measures.

Referring to the announcement by UN representative Diego Cordovez, which was made on the 8th of last month with the concurrence of the four parties, he said Cordovez urged all parties concerned to assist the Afghan people in setting up a broad-based interim government.

Pakistan sincerely hopes that it will be implemented without any delay. He said the Afghan alliance is an important part of this process and it is understood that this alliance is prepared to meet with Cordovez.

He said now that the implementation of the Geneva accord will begin on the 15th of this month, Pakistan has invited Cordovez to visit the region as soon as possible and to help in this regard.

The spokesman emphasized that Pakistan is making efforts to fulfill its responsibilities under the Geneva accord to create an atmosphere conducive for the return of the Afghan refugees, but no effort has been made so far by the Kabul administration in this regard.

He said Pakistan is waiting for talks with the UN high commissioner for refugees regarding the provision of basic facilities for the return of the Afghan refugees.

In Afghanistan also, similar basic facilities should be provided to help rehabilitate the refugees in their country. Pakistan has asked the UN high commissioner for refugees to prepare a program under his aegis to assist in the rehabilitation of the refugees and to effect its implementation.

Pakistan feels that the Kabul administration cannot effectively implement any rehabilitation program for the Afghan refugees nor would this be acceptable to the Afghan refugees.

The spokesman said Pakistan has provided the UN high commissioner for refugees with all the facilities to implement the assistance program, and it hopes that the other party will also provide the high commissioner with the facilities needed.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan feels that instruments one and two of the Geneva accords condradict the understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union to fulfill obligations (?as guarantors).

He said the Afghan mujahidin are not a party to the Geneva accords and hence the accord does not affect their right to continue their struggle in Afghanistan.

Referring to the reports that Soviet advisers will be present in Afghanistan, the spokesman said under the Geneva accords all foreign citizens should leave Afghanistan.

Answering a question on Dr Najibullah's visit to India, the spokesman said that it is extremely unfortunate that he has been invited to visit at a time when the Soviet forces are about to pull out from Afghanistan.

The spokesman said Pakistan has expressed its heartfelt regrets and disappointment over the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and its intensification in recent months, particularly in the use of chemical weapons. He said Pakistan is totally neutral in this tragic event, but not unconcerned.

Prime Minister To Visit East Asian Countries

BK0405112788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, is to undertake goodwill visits to a number of East Asian countries later this month. The prime minister's tour is to begin with an overnight stay in Beijing on 22 May.

This will be his first meeting with the new Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Islamabad today that Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo is looking forward to the opportunity to exchange views with the Chinese prime minister on bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

The prime minister will later pay an official visit to the Philippines and to the Republic of Korea and hold talks with the leaders of those countries on bilateral relations. He will also stop over in Hong Kong where he will meet the Pakistani community.

Zain Noorani To Lead Delegation to Soviet Union

BK0405112088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, will lead a goodwill delegation to Moscow in connection with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. The composition of the delegation and program of the visit are being finalized.

Commentary on Improving Relations With USSR
BK0505093988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Hasan Akhtar Gardezi commentary]

[Text] The 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union fell on the 4th of May, and this occasion was celebrated both in Islamabad and Moscow.

The importance which Pakistan attaches to improvement of relations between the two countries would be manifest from the personal visit which President Mohammad Ziaul Haq paid to the Soviet Embassy on Tuesday [3 May] evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the president expressed the wish that the Geneva agreement would bring peace to Afghanistan and that it would go a long way in promoting friendly relations between Pakistan and the USSR. He praised the crucial role of the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, leading to the signing of the Geneva agreement.

It may not be possible to assess and appraise the states of mind of policymakers, that is, the leaders of various countries, yet it would be reasonable to assume that, all things being equal, they would turn and tilt toward peace and cooperation rather than war and conflict.

They would do so in the interest of their own countries and a growing sense of interdependence with other countries. It is in this context that the Geneva agreement was signed.

It is in this context that President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev have planned another summit in Moscow shortly. It is not always possible to give dramatic and instant turns and twists to relationships which had existed for long periods of time.

Yet, we may strive to advance toward goals which we feel are good for us and for others. Generally, relationships between nations are shaped by the interaction of three dynamic forces:

The first is the thrust of domestic developments in the political systems and societies; the second is the power balance between states; and the third force is the pattern of global and regional developments which may compel countries to variously compete or cooperate.

There have been a lot of turbulence in the world in recent years. This phenomena is reflected in the war in Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, Cambodia, Palestine, and Lebanon.

One positive way of looking at things would be to think that increased security risks of nations have in an equal measure improved their stakes in avoiding the complete breakdown of world order into anarchy. The [words indistinct] and particularly because of the threat of nuclear weapons a new awareness has come to them of mutual interdependence. Hopefully, we are entering the new phase of mankind's political evolution.

In the meantime, nations need to be realistic and patient in the management of their relations with each other. What is good for the United States need not always be bad for the Soviet Union or China or Japan.

Can we carry the analogy to India and Pakistan and Bangladesh, and of course, other countries which have suffered from the consequences of discord? Possibly, we can.

We do not know yet, but the Geneva agreement has the potentialities to prove itself a landmark in contemporary world history. As the president has remarked that besides bringing peace in Afghanistan, the Geneva accord will help promote friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

The prospects of promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries are very bright and it is hoped that their ties will be further strengthened in the years to come.

Sri Lanka

Security Team Visits Southern Province
BK0405140088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1259 GMT 4 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 4 (LANKA PUWATH)—The chief of the Joint Operation Command (JOC), General Cyril Ranatunge; Major General Asoka Jayewardene, general officer commanding I Division; senior deputy inspector general of police, Leo Perera; deputy inspector general of police (intelligence), H. Merrick Gunaratne; and other security officials visited Matara and other adjoining areas in Sri Lanka's Southern Province today to survey the security situation, official sources told LANKA PUWATH today.

The official sources said the top security team found that the tires of four buses had been deflated. An attempt was made to derail a train at Weligama, and on intimidation and threat three schools in Matara were closed. Also a few shops were closed for a few hours.

The public had cooperated with the security forces to bring the situation under control.

The attempt to derail the train at Weligama was foiled by the vigilance of the public and three suspects were arrested for attempting to intimidate shopkeepers to close shops.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers at Malimboda, a town about 7 miles from Akuressa, defied threats by the Deshapremi Janatha Viyapara, a military wing of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and remained open yesterday.

Attempts to display antigovernment placards at Rahula College and St Thomas College at Matara failed as the students allowed the police to remove them without any confrontation.

A report from Iriyagama, Peradeniya, states that the JVP had exploded a bomb at a house in Iriyagama killing one and injuring two persons.

North Western Province Ministers Sworn in

BK0405132888 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1209 GMT 4 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 May (LANKA PUWATH)—The board of ministers of the North Western Provincial Council were sworn in this morning by the governor of the North Western Province, former Sri Lankan Government minister of agricultural development and research, D.B. Wijetunge.

Former District Minister for Kurunegala is the chief minister.

The other members of the board of ministers are W.M. Dharmadasa, minister of finance and planning, electricity, transport and health; Ariya B. Rekawa, minister of local government and construction, labour and cultural affairs; Mrs Laryn Perera, minister of fisheries, industries, tourism and women's affairs; and R.M.N. Bandara, minister of agriculture, food and cooperatives.